

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIA

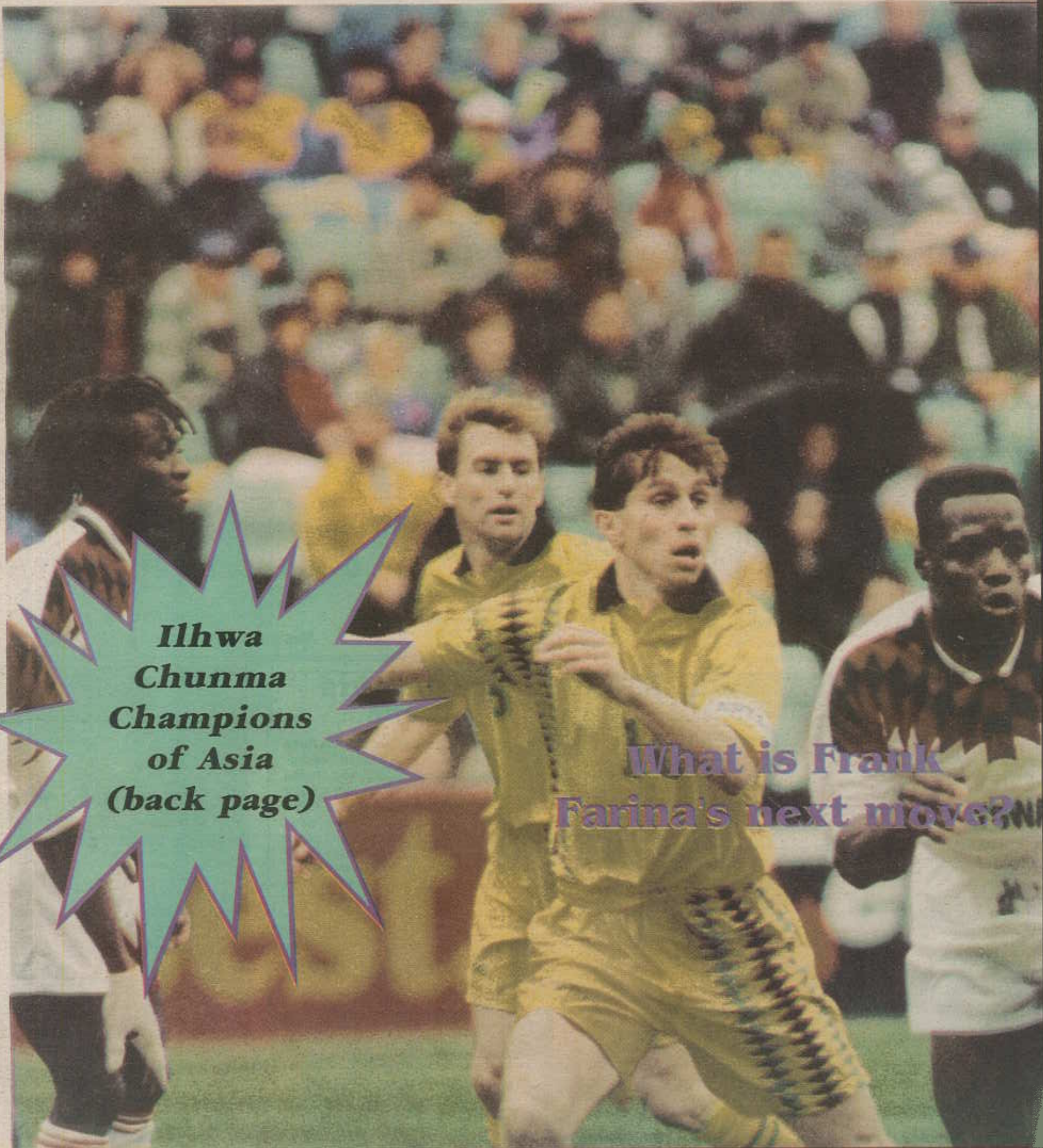
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**Ilhwa
Chunma
Champions
of Asia
(back page)**

What is Frank Farina's next move?

Part two of Norman Whiteside interview

Drastic measures advocated at top level to increase quality

Editorial

The popular leagues of Europe are silent as is the national competition in Australia. A search of the dailies would make anyone think that association football wasn't played in the winter in this country. No stories, no results, nothing.

We, the initiated, know differently. The Mums and Dads who run their sons and daughters to matches on weekends are well aware that their offspring certainly play for their team, with a Club, in their local area.

The players and schools in competitions such as the Commonwealth Bank Cup and Shield for open age teams and the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup for Under 15s know just how many of their like are involved.

Within the code we boast that there are approaching 500,000 players across Australia. But who can believe this when little of this endeavour makes the popular press, television or radio. All the efforts of committees, canteens, coaches, managers, referees, players, teachers, schools and parents goes mostly unheralded.

Soccer provides a marvellous vehicle for people to make a contribution to society through organising teams, seeing players develop through training and coaching, serving on Club and Association committees, controlling competition through application of the Laws of the Game.

Children develop within a team environment, adults grow through increasing knowledge and satisfaction. Clubs start, thrive, fall back, revive, go on. A club is nothing without people with a vision, often one or two like minded people.

Friendships are forged between players and by working together as a team in committee. Weekly club newsletters are compiled, statistics recorded. Both of these contribute to history, the sporting past of Australia.

A person will be persuaded to take on the task of coaching their child's team maybe they are six year olds.

By the controlling organisation insisting that a coach, at any level, must attend formal courses to gain certification of competency, then standards are set.

That person may decide to push on in the coaching ranks and could potentially become the person in charge of a top team. This has happened, not all top line coaches are former players.

The same is true of referees. When will an Australian developed referee officiate at a major world final? There have been a number of referees from Australia at major events, the latest being Eddie Lennie at the Olympics.

All these coaches, referees, players, committee members, newsletter compilers can take pride in being part of the World Game and their efforts are truly worthwhile.

BY BOB BROOKS

Is it me or is it a fact that the standard of play in the top State League is declining? I refer here to the NSW Soccer Federation Super League. What follows probably applies across the country.

Rightly or wrongly the Ericsson Cup teams have mainly stopped their players guesting for clubs in Super League during the winter.

Players from the 1995 AIS Graduation have gone directly overseas to join a vast number already there.

With these factors taken into account, the quantity of quality players available to play in the Super League has declined dramatically.

No wonder the standard of play has fallen back. Too few players of quality are spread too thinly over the twelve teams.

Added to which referees are distributing yellow cards as freely as greetings. To be given a yellow card for slight shirt pulling on half way, near the touch line, seems like over-generous use of a necessary disciplinary measure.

Ten cautions in one game seems to be the norm rather than the exception at \$20 a time that means \$200 going out from Clubs struggling to make ends meet to a Federation that is the richest in Australia.

That is not to imply that it has become wealthy on the back of its constituent clubs. It has achieved this, in the main, because of an extremely far-sighted and generous benefactor. This man bought land cheaply in the 1950s for a chicken farm and after becoming comfortably wealthy, donated those paddocks to NSW Soccer. Surplus land has been sold off for housing.

Maybe it is time to look at some remedies. Firstly cull the Super League to eight teams or less. After all Scotland with more population than NSW

has only two more in its premier competition.

With dramatically fewer teams at the top, there should be a tighter distribution of quality players in those clubs. Games should be of a higher standard and would therefore attract more spectators.

On that subject just 73 were counted at one recent game in the north of the metropolitan area. How much can that club possibly pay its players with such pathetically low attendances. What atmosphere is there for the players? They may as well play Association All Age Premiers, they would probably enjoy it just as much and may attract more spectators!

There is no incentive for clubs to develop their grounds when crowds are so poor. Are crowds so poor because standards of matches are ordinary at best?

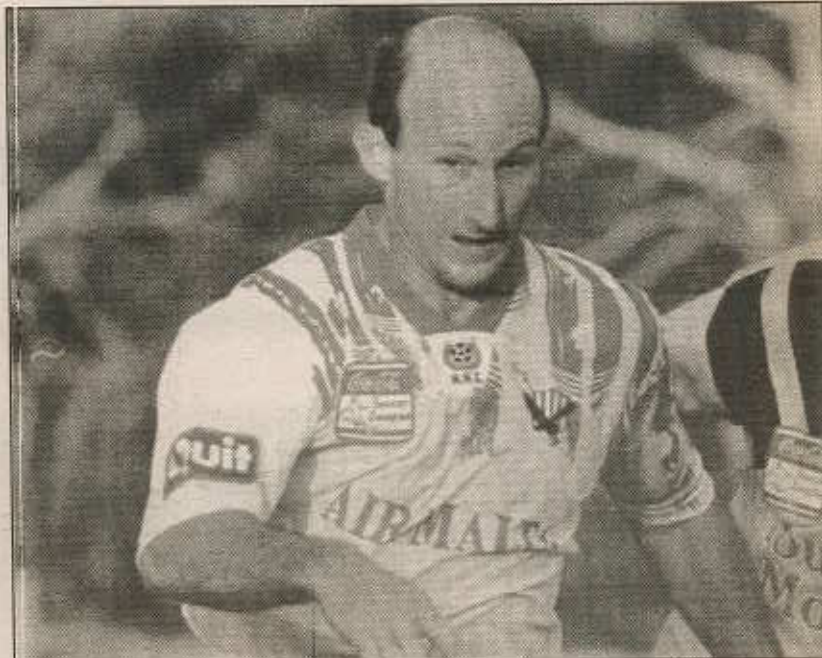
Those clubs with licensed premises which generate income must be seeing a decline in revenue through the various facilities available to members and their guests.

A small fortune could be spent on marketing and promotion of the top competitions but to what ends, when insufficient quality players are performing on the pitch. It needs to be borne in mind that each State's major competition is competing for the entertainment dollar.

An eight dollar admission charge for mediocre fare is surely too high a price to demand in these days of six dollar cinema tickets. Reducing the entry charge to cinemas has brought about a revival in attendances. Surely there is a message for us, the soccer fraternity.

We have undeniably the highest qualified level of coaches in all of Soccer's Australian history. That does not mean that the standard of soccer has risen.

The cream of the crop are just not available to produce quality play and those that are on show are spread too thinly. This means that the best are forever performing with



Geoff Gunning: Quality player in Super League whose talents are not always appreciated

inferior players. The top echelon become frustrated and their performance slips.

Youngsters with talent are forever under unacceptable pressure and do not have the

better quality players around them which means these youngsters may never reach their true potential.

For the sake of repeating a theme — a reduction in teams

at the top must be made as a matter of urgency, otherwise semi-professional state leagues are doomed to mediocrity forever.

Good Luck! wishes to Australia's Olyroos

The Atlanta Olympics Soccer Tournament is off and running. Australia's Olympians play their final Group B match on Thursday morning 9 am Eastern Standard Time

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Atlanta 1996

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

7-9 Garners Avenue, Marrickville 2204. Tel (02) 560-3900. Fax (02) 550-9332
Published every Tuesday by FL Press Pty Ltd, 1-9 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037

DISTRIBUTION

NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd, 1-9 Glebe Pt Road, Glebe 2037 Tel: (02) 660 2033
VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd, Unit 9, 405 Flemington Road, North Melbourne, 3051.
Tel: (03) 9329-1636 Fax: (03) 9329-1342
QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspaper

Campbell St, Bowen Hills 4006 Tel: (07) 252-6011

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd, Waymouth St, Adelaide 5000 Tel: (08) 218-9329
WEST AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth 6000 Tel: 328-4779

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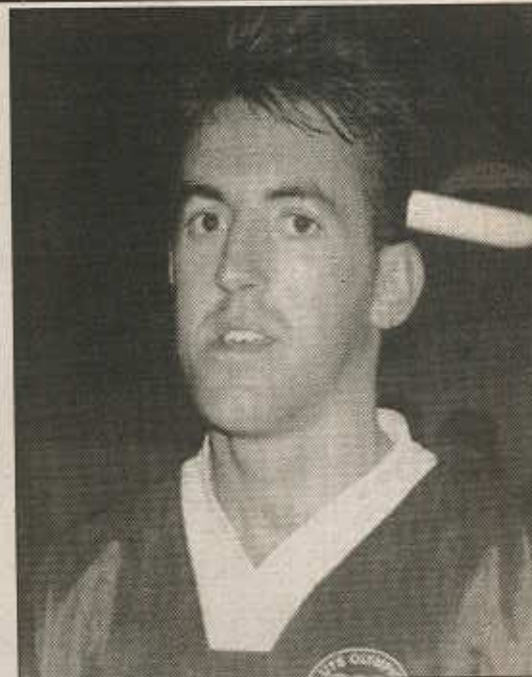
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Scott Baillie: Playing Super League, but a rarity.

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Atlanta Olympic Games Football Tournament

Tsekenis to replace Tiatto for Australia



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BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Peter Tsekenis, Sydney Olympic's tenacious central midfielder, was expected to fill in for the suspended midfielder Danny Tiatto in Australia's second Olympic match against Saudi Arabia early this morning (Tuesday 9am AEST) at the Orange Bowl in Miami.

Australia is now in a very desperate situation for a win following its 2-0 loss last Sunday morning in the opening match against France.

Attacking left-midfielder Tiatto was sent off by Argentine referee Ruben Rusco after just 22 minutes, which crippled Australia's attack.

Australia's Olympic coach Eddie Thomson told ABSW from Miami last night, "With Danny out suspended for one match, I have no hesitation in bringing into the side Peter Tsekenis.

"I have coached him a long time and know what he can do and trust him to do the job.

"I intend to use Peter in the central position and switch Aurelio Vidmar out wide on the left to gain some penetration on the flank and hopefully he will get crosses in which we failed to do against France.

"I have had some anxious moments with our sweeper Steve Horvat.

"He twisted his knee against France and it has been causing him some pain behind that area.

"It will be a last minute decision, but should Steve be ruled out, I have the option of either bringing in Ross Aloisi in the free-back's role or move our captain Kevin Muscat from a marker's role



Peter Tsekenis: Will replace the suspended Danny Tiatto in the Australian line-up against Saudi Arabia.

to that covering position," stated Thomson.

Australia's dynamic and world class striker Paul Agostino, who caused much concern to the French defence, also is carrying an injury.

The elegant and industrious Agostino copped a kick on the calf muscle but Thomson was hoping the England-based marksman would recover in



Paul Agostino: Outstanding against France.



Eddie Thomson: Faced with difficult selection challenges but still optimistic.

time. Meanwhile striker Joe Spiteri is on standby for one of the striking spots.

COACH FURIOUS

Thomson was still seething last night over Tiatto's sending off on Sunday morning in the first match.

"It was never a red card in a million years," stated a frustrated Thomson.

"That referee was the same guy we had in South America that sent off our striker Joe Spiteri earlier this year when we played Chile over there.

"The whole team watched the Tiatto sending off on video on the bus as we left the Stadium to go back to our headquarters at the Nova College.

"It wasn't a send-off and the French player (midfielder Claude Makelele) faked it," claimed Thomson.

"I am honestly sure that had we finished the match with eleven men, we would have beaten France.

"With Tiatto off so early, we had to pull back a bit so we were restricted greatly in getting enough crosses into the box.

"In the second session we pressured them and they panicked as they kicked the ball anywhere just to clear it.

"And as far as our fitness in the heat, it stood up very well."

Then Thomson recoiled with a warning, "We are NOT dead yet.

"Remember Barcelona? Well if you do, we lost our first match 3-1 against Ghana, yet Australia was able to bounce back and go on to make the play-offs for a Bronze."

OPENING CEREMONY FIASCO

Australia's Olympic coach wisely refused to allow any players to attend the Olympics' spectacular, (but

very long), Opening Ceremony last Saturday almost 1000kms north of Miami.

"We were in fact training at that time but were able to watch bits and pieces of it on television later.

"But just as well.

"The heat was incredible, the time was too long, and later we heard that it was absolute chaos with the buses getting all the athletes back to the Olympic Village.

"In fact many of the athletes didn't get back till well after 2 am," ended Thomson.

Following this morning's clash against Saudi Arabia, Australia's third and final

game of round 1 is on Thursday against Barcelona's Gold Medal winner, Spain, which will be played in Orlando.

The highly fancied Spain defeated the Saudis last Sunday 1-0 scoring the winner just 10 minutes from time.

Australia's likely line-up against Saudi Arabia:

Goalkeeper: Juric.
Sweeper: Horvat (or Aloisi)

Twin markers: Babic, Muscat.

Wing-backs: Casserly, Moric.

Midfielders: Corica, Tsekenis, Vidmar.

Strikers: Agostino (Spiteri), Viduka.

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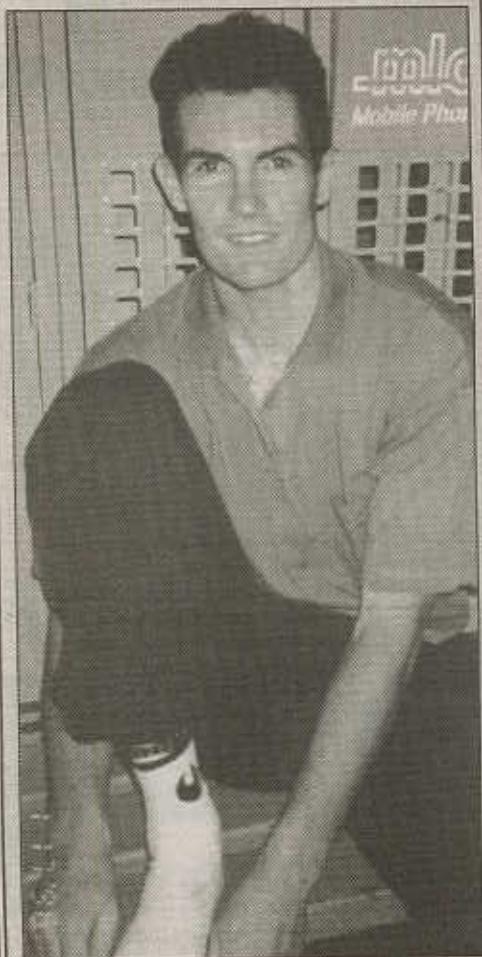
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STAR PROFILE Alistair Edwards



Date of Birth: June 21, 1968.
Birthplace: Whyalla, South Australia.
Previous Clubs: AIS, Glasgow Rangers, Sydney Olympic, Singapore, Johor and Selangor (Malaysia), Millwall.
Current Club: Sydney Olympic.
Position: Striker or left side midfielder.
Nickname: 'Bundi'
Marital Status: Married to Gracie (two sons, Cameron 4 years old and Ryan 2 years old).
Occupation: Full-time player and Student in Sports Management.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Work-rate and shooting.
Most Difficult Opponent: The next one.
Most Impressive Local Player: Craig Foster.
Favourite Overseas Player: Maradona.
Favourite Overseas Club: Glasgow Rangers.
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: Must have good man-management and sound knowledge of the game.
Honours: All the Western Australian Junior State sides, 1987 World Youth team to Chile, two 'Golden Boot' awards in Malaysia, senior Australian squad.
Ambitions For 1996: To graduate from Uni and win League with Olympic.
Ambitions After Retiring: To manage an Australian club side.
Most Memorable Moment: The birth of my two sons, my debut for Australia and winning the Grand Final against Marconi with Sydney Olympic in 1990.
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Am a computer nut on the Internet.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Marco Van Basten's volley in the 1988 Euro Championships against Russia.
Favourite Food: Italian and Asian.
Favourite Drink: Milk.
Car You Drive: Ford Laser Ghia 1989.
Favourite TV Show: Sports Tonight on Channel 10.
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: All afternoon soaps.
Favourite Movie: Ghost and Schindler's List.
Favourite Actor/Actress: Steve Martin and Demi Moore.
Preferred Music: Anything.
Least Preferred Music: Heavy Rock.
Favourite Comedian: Steve Martin, Andrew Bena and Eddie Murphy.
Pet Hates: All dishonest people.
Special Advice To Young Players: Work hard always and you will reap what you sow.
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Greg Norman.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

GOOD OIL GOOD OIL

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



Marconi late last week signed Craig Foster, the Adelaide City star attacking midfielder, on a three year contract.

The 27 year old Foster is believed to have cost a \$30,000 fee.

This signing was Marconi's second within a week, following that of Sean Babic the former Sydney United striker as published last week in 'Good Oil'.

Both players are expected to tour China with Marconi next month.

Marconi has been invited to play two matches in Shanghai against local champions Shanghai Shen Hua on August 24 with the second match three days later.



Craig Foster: On his way from Adelaide to Fairfield.

Adelaide City expects to sign up tomorrow (Wednesday), Michael Musitano from Canberra Cosmos. The exciting attacking player will go for a bargain fee of \$8,000.

Musitano has agreed terms, on a two year contract, with the 'Black and Whites'.

Aurelio Vidmar, Australia's international attacking midfielder, currently in Miami with the Australian Olympic team, was last week transferred from Holland to the Spanish first division.

Vidmar last year was bought for \$5.2 million by Dutch giants Feyenoord of Rotterdam.

Jupp Heynckes, in charge of Spanish club Tenerife, jumped in and snatched an unhappy Vidmar for the bargain fee of just \$1.5

million. Heynckes, a German coach, took Vidmar to the Canary Islands club. The islands are a favourite holiday resort for wealthy people from Europe.

Sydney Olympic last Sunday at an Extra-ordinary Meeting attended by almost 400 vocal Members, finally approved a 10-man-Consortium to takeover the management of its Soccer team for a period of three years.

The new Consortium is expected to inject some \$500,000 into the cash strapped Club's coffers. The Consortium also expects to announce sometime this week a new sponsor.

Adelaide City, this Friday, has arranged a very special 'Farewell Dinner' to honour its long-serving master-coach, Zoran Matic.

Matic who had a very successful decade with the club, and who already has moved residence to Melbourne to takeover the new Collingwood Warriors, will be flown back to Adelaide for his special function.

The well-planned dinner to be held at the 'South Australian Italian Association Club' in Carrington Street, has been organised by Liberal M.P. and Club patron Ms Joan Hall.

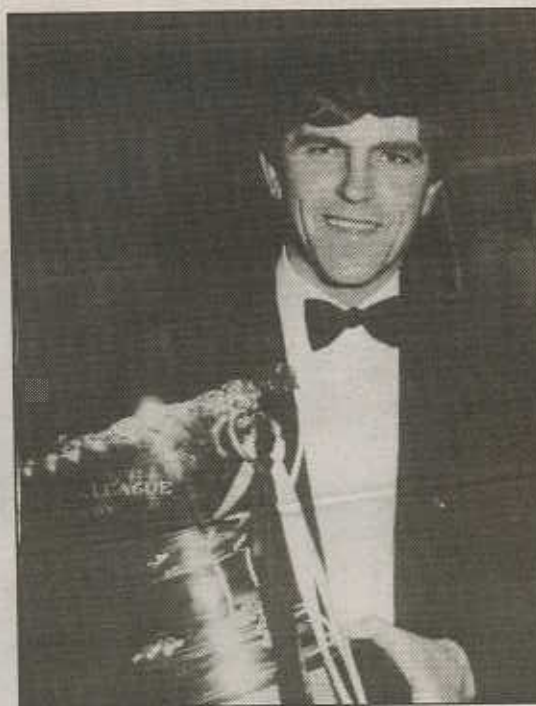
Included on the guest list are all of Adelaide's three League championship winning squads of 1986, '92 and '94.

Former president of Adelaide City, Charlie Zollo told 'Good Oil' last night,

"Zoran deserves so much for his long services to our Club as well as to South Australia over the many years he was in charge."



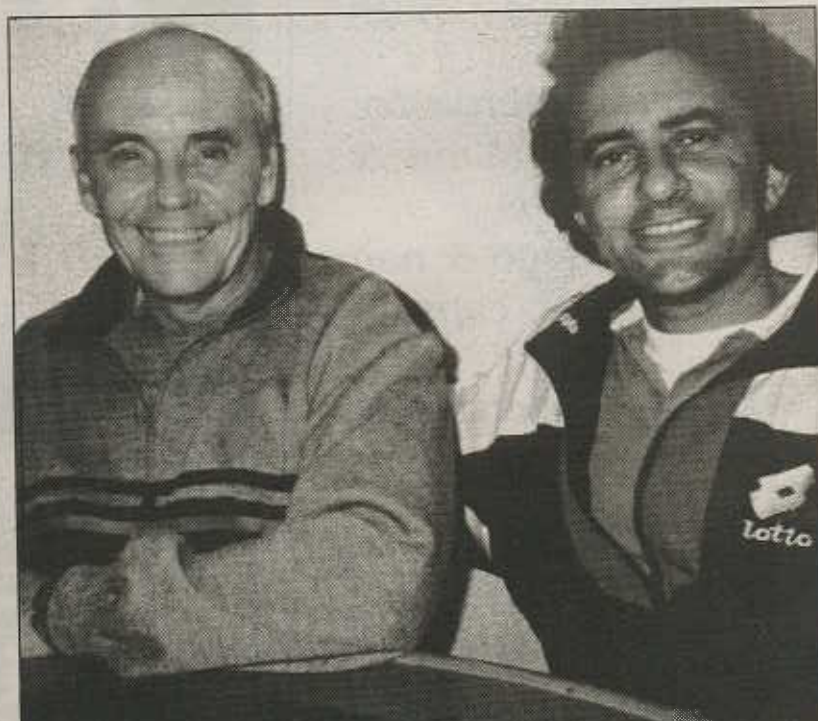
Michael Musitano: Striker joining the 'Black and Whites'.



Zoran Matic: Coaching legend to be honoured by the 'Black and Whites'.



Aurelio Vidmar: Off to ply his trade in the Canary Island of Spain.



Graeme McKinnon (l) Tony Raciti (r) meeting together to discuss the fortunes of the APIA club.

APIA Veteran Spreading Gospel in the Philippines

Graeme McKinnon, the outstanding right winger for APIA in the 1960s, flew into Sydney for a brief visit last week before flying straight back out to his new 'home' of recent years, Cebu, the second largest city, after Manila, in the Philippines.

The former dazzling winger, McKinnon, although now just a dozen weeks from turning 50 years of age, is still heavily involved in Soccer.

Through the tropical jungles of the Philippines, McKinnon has most unselfishly chosen to embark upon a career that is nothing less than a true pioneering preacher of the code, helping to spread the gospel of Soccer throughout the surrounding poverty regions of Cebu.

APIA throughout the 60s boasted a star-studded side with such super names as Johnny Watkiss, Joe Marston, Ricardo Campana, Johnny Wong, Johnny Giacometti, Pat Hughes, Fil Bottalico, Stan Ackerly, Cliff Van Blerk, acrobatic goalkeeper Audato Iglesias and later John Roberts.

McKinnon was horrified to hear that the old APIA Social Club which sponsored his glorious old team, was in dire financial straits and could be sold to developers.

But last week it was revealed that a group of businessmen (19) which had hastily formed a consortium, have almost saved the Club for the Community.

The consortium have raised \$1.9 million and will borrow the rest believed to be some \$2.5 million.

In the next couple of weeks, ABSW will publish for our readers a full article of Graeme McKinnon's life and work in the Philippines.

French team's reputation enhanced

BY PAUL MILLER OF AAP

The Orange Bowl is a large stadium with a capacity of 75,000 however it has a small playing surface and Thomson expected some tight, physical clashes.

France started the game as a hot favourite and is 10-1 to make the final while Australia was a 25-1 win tip.

As Thomson said, "They are a class team, they're all full-time professionals but there have been big shocks in these games before, let people write us off, they have before and we've produced the goods." His confidence was shattered with the 2-0 reverse.

The French suffered a major blow last week when star striker Patrick Vieira was forced to drop out of the squad with a knee injury.

Vieira had played one game with Italian giants AC Milan before being conscripted into the French army and is tipped to join Ajax.

But his replacement Oumar Dieng is one of France's rising stars and will add some sting to any position he plays in.

The hard tackling Paris St Germain star can play anywhere and Thomson admitted the utility could cause problems.

The French squad is without any over-age players and is still seen as one of the major powers in the series as all its players are full-time professionals.

Lyon striker Florian Maurice has been testing the best defences in Europe this season while winger Robert Pires has a bagful of tricks at his disposal. Both enhanced their reputations scoring one each against Australia.

Claude Makelele is the engine room of the side.

The last time the French played in the United States in Olympic soccer in 1984 it won the gold medal.

Australia needs to finish in the top two in its group to advance to the open rounds. They still have to face Saudi Arabia at the Orange Bowl Tuesday morning and then reigning champions Spain in Orlando on Thursday 9am.



Atlanta 1996

TM. © 1992 ACOG

Olyroos fall to France

BY PAUL MILLER

Australia had a cool start to its opening Olympic soccer game going down 2-0 to France in blast furnace heat, after losing livewire Danny Tiatto to a red card early in the game.

In the stifling Miami Orange Bowl the Olyroos made a bright start taking the game to the highly fancied French.

But their confidence was shattered when Robert Pires pounced on a low cross, drilling it through a static Australian defence, past an unsighted Frank Juric.

The Australians were 1-0 down with only 12 minutes played and the nightmare was to continue.

Midfielder Tiatto lunged into French dangerman Claude Makelele and Argentinian referee Ruben Ruscio added to Australia's misery when he drew a red card sending Tiatto for an early shower in the 21st minute.

Makelele was stretched from the ground and later received a yellow card for returning to the pitch without permission.

After that the Olyroo attacks became more sporadic while the French lifted in confidence running at the Australians.

Paul Agostino sent a whipping free kick goalwards but it clipped the defensive wall and he had to be content to see it go wide.

The French beat a steady path to the Australian

goalmouth, after that and Juric was forced to deflect a stinging Florian Maurice drive just before the break.

Agostino hit a tidy cross that went past the outstretched boot of Mark Viduka early in the second half, but after that Australia's chances were few and far between.

Maurice drew through the heart of the Australian defence, hitting a daisy cutter which Juric deflected and Steve Horvat could only help into the net.

Tiatto receives an automatic one game suspension and will miss Monday's game against Saudi Arabia, who went down 1-0 to Spain.

The Melbourne Knights midfielder said the foul which resulted in his sending off was never intentional.

"I had no intention of running into the other player, I just made a play on the ball," he said.

"I understand the referee's decision but it should have been a yellow card not the red."

"Earlier there were several other players involved in similar tackles and they were not sent off."

AUSTRALIA: Frank Juric (Melbourne Knights), Steve Horvat (Hajduk Split), Mark Babic (Sydney United), Kevin Muscat (South Melbourne), Luke Casserley (Marconi), Ante Moric (Sydney United), Steve Corica (Wolves), Aurelio Vidmar (Feyenoord), Danny Tiatto (Melbourne Knights), Paul Agostino (Bristol City), Mark Viduka (Croatia Zagreb).



Danny Tiatto: Another red card for the temperamental midfielder.

Saudi Arabia's six goal striker

BY MICHAEL CHURCH OF AFC NEWS

As he stepped off the aeroplane from Riyadh to Kuala Lumpur in March, Obeid Al Dossary was, to most people, just another footballer appearing in Malaysia for Asia's final Olympic qualifying tournament.

But by the end of his first game of the tournament for Saudi Arabia's Olympic squad, against South Korea, it was plain for all to see that a new star had been born in Asian football and a new name was set to be listed with the greats of the continent's game.

"This is the new Majed" came the whisperings from the stands as Al Dossary stunned the Koreans with a clinical volley to cap an all-round performance of immense magnitude.

To be like Majed Abdullah is every Saudi footballer's dream, such has been the impact of the legendary striker on the game in the Gulf and now Al Dossary's sublime control, tireless running and devastating finishing both on the ground and in the air set him apart from all but a few at the Kuala Lumpur event, as he almost single-handedly took his side towards qualification.

He was named Player of the Tournament after also taking the top goalscorers crown for the tournament with six goals.

The series of outstanding performances alerted professional clubs from throughout Asia with one even offering him a contract before the end of the tournament.

"It is a great honour to get this offer from a major footballing country like South Korea," said Al Dossary of the approach from Korean professional club Lucky Goldstar Cheetahs, "but, within the Saudi Arabia federation we have regulations so, if the federation allows me to move, then I wouldn't mind."

A move abroad would give Al Dossary the opportunity to hone his talents further and, perhaps, reach a broader audience than even Majed managed.

However, within Saudi Arabia, Al Dossary has no plans to move from Al Wahda, the second division side he supported as a boy and the club his elder brother encouraged him to join.

"My brother was the best player in our school and he encouraged me to play for Al Wahda," he said. "I intend to stay where I am."

"I like my club a lot and when I was a child I

supported them so, without Al Wahda there would be no Obeid Al Dossary. I will stay with my club forever unless someone from outside Saudi Arabia offers me a contract. Only then will I leave."

Bad news then for Saudi's big two clubs, Al Nassr and Al Hilal, neither of which interest Al Dossary but taking his country to a place at the next World Cup, in France in two years time, is what he is striving for.

"My main ambition is to play in the World Cup. I wish to have continued success with the Olympic team but, more than anything else, I want to play in the World Cup some day."

And of the claims that he may be the new Majed?

"I'm a fan of Majed Abdullah, firstly because he is a great player. I wish to be half of Majed Abdullah," he said modestly.

"I have played with many players and I try to learn something from them. I have been learning recently. I know I have something special and we are born with these skills but we have to develop them."

I just try to give my best and hope the observers like what they see."

After his performance in Kuala Lumpur in March, that is something of an understatement.



Obeid Al Dossary: Compared to Saudi Arabia's legendary striker.

Woman referee makes history

Sonia Denoncourt of Canada (right) became the first woman to referee an Olympic soccer match when she officiated the women's game between Japan and Germany at Birmingham, Alabama yesterday.

Denoncourt has refereed men's games in the United States A League, which also includes Canadian teams, and is designated as second division by the US Soccer Federation.

The FIFA referees committee, which met today, also ended the suspension of Dutch referee Dick Jol and cleared him of allegations that he had gambled on matches.

"We are completely satisfied that Dick Jol had been made the victim of allegations that were totally unjustified," said David Will of Scotland, the head of FIFA's referees committee. "We're happy to clear his name."

The Royal Dutch Soccer Association suspended Jol on November 2, 1995 after Dutch television stations accused him of gambling on matches with bets at a grocery store in The Hague.

Another woman is in charge of the whole football competition, Sandra Cress.



RESULTS MEN'S

Group A

Portugal 2 Tunisia 0
Alfonzo Martins (12, 67)

Argentina 3 USA 1
Lopez (35), Crespo (56), Simeone (90)
Reyna (1)

Group B

France 2 Australia 0
Roberto Pires (12), Florian Maurice (75)

Spain 1 Saudi Arabia 0
Oscar Garcia (80)

TABLES

Group A

	1	2	3	F	A	Pts	Psn
Argentina	3-1						
Portugal	2-0						
Tunisia	0-2						
USA	1-3						

Group B

Australia	0-2
France	2-0
Saudi Arabia	0-1
Spain	1-0

Group C

Ghana	0-1
Italy	0-1
Mexico	1-0
S. Korea	1-0

Group D

Brazil	0-1
Hungary	0-1
Japan	1-0
Nigeria	1-0

A Fill-In Table to keep a check on results as they come in.

Mr Negative?

Dear Sir,
Does R. Melor exist or is he a figment of the Editor's imagination?

This character is ultra negative and does your publication no good at all.

I was under the impression that your paper's main objective is to promote the game of soccer. A successful attempt at this exercise will ultimately swell your readership and subsequently attract more advertisers to your paper.

Unfortunately a good days reading is spoilt when one comes across the negative drivel of R. Melor. He obviously has a hidden agenda. He likes to offend and insult almost everyone connected with the game. He appears to have a personal grudge with Soccer Australia, particularly with the Chairman and everyone whose name does not sound ethnic.

R. Melor has criticised the Brisbane Strikers on many occasions for their lack of success in Queensland. Why? Any self respecting critic knows that the Strikers have

had a very successful season. R. Melor should take a trip to Suncorp Stadium (the Strikers share the ground with the Crushers Rugby League team) next season and experience the atmosphere in person. Does he knock the Strikers because the club is open to all Australians and does not pander to only one ethnic community? I believe that the majority of ethnics in Queensland support the multicultural flavour of the Strikers. Believe you me, I am one of them.

R. Melor is a delusive knocker of our sport. We have a number of detractors just like him in the media. Why then waste valuable space to promote the views of another knocker in a soccer newspaper? Give him the chop and let him use the extra spare time to sift through the polluted debris of Bondi beach.

Serge Armansin,
Everton Hills, QLD 4053.

Editors Note: Be assured that R. Melor exists. Letters to the Editor allow people to express their personal opinions.



"It's a letter from our Diving Team in Atlanta....they want you on the first plane!"

OCEANIA — A PAWN IN JOAO'S CHESS GAME?

by HENRY WIZGIER

Australian soccer lives in a kind of 'dreamtime' where many of its participants like to believe that we are 'somewhere else', like Europe.

We sit here waiting for games against the big names of European football, Brazil or Argentina.

Once every half a decade or so the dream materializes into reality and we do get a visit from one of the 'real' giants.

Eight years ago Brazil and Argentina came here for the 'Gold Cup'.

Five years later we got a friendly visit from European Champions AC Milan and a few months later - a taste of 'The Real Thing'.

Not just a real tangible game for something important - but the World Cup no less.

Not just Argentina - but a specially brought out of retirement Maradona, to prove they meant business - as a bonus.

According to those statistics, we've only a couple of years to wait until the next 'important visit'.

Not a lot in a decade, but something to tell your grandchildren about, nevertheless.

We are all guilty of living in this fantasy world of dreaming but one word will always wake us up and bring us back down to earth with a terrific bump.

That word is - OCEANIA!

In the real football world, we don't live on the edge of Europe, we belong to the ultimate backwater.

When FIFA announced recently that Oceania was to become a CONFEDERATION, it was received in Australia with about as much interest as the result of the Fijian League Cup Final.

Yet - the fact is that this backwater who hardly any soccer fan in Australia gives a damn about and many - don't even know about, has the same status (in theory) as UEFA and CONMEBOL.

The whole thing doesn't make any sense. That is why Lennart Johansson the chief of UEFA tried to make sense out of it by putting together a totally sensible plan which was to divide the (football) world into just FOUR Confederations - Europe, America (South, Central and North), Africa and Asia (including Oceania). What could be simpler?

For us, it would have meant being part of Asia and of course all those lovely big, money-spinning competitions such as the Asian Cup for our National team, plus the Asian Champions Cup and the Cup-Winners Cup for our clubs.

If there are any doubts as to what Asian competition would have meant for us - you only have to look closely at a minor event which took place recently.

A Western Australian representative side took on Indonesia in Perth.

On this side of the Nullabor plain - it got a brief mention in ABSW, thanks to our correspondent Richard Kreider.

Even those of you who read it may have missed a significant little sentence, that this seemingly meaningless game was shown on Indonesian TV to an audience of 70 MILLION!

This, is an audience that is on a par with the rugby union 'world cup', rugby league

could only ever dream about a HALF of that figure whereas the 'great game' of Aussie Rules, would doubt that such a figure could ever exist.

Alas, that is just a taste of what could have been but doesn't look like becoming, thanks to Uncle Charlie Dempsey who knows what's best for us.

Uncle Charlie has convinced the powers that be in Zurich, that we want nothing more than to be given direct entry into the Under 17's World Championships.

That, is about the only benefit we get from being the Confederation Of Oceania because unlike our fellow Confederations we will still not be given direct entry into the World Cup.

It is doubtful whether we will be given direct entry into the Olympics either - although we won't have to worry about that for another eight years as we get automatic entry for Sydney 2000 - as hosts!

So, what exactly have we gained by becoming a CONFEDERATION?

That is a question that we intend to put to Oceania President Mr. Charlie Dempsey in the near future.

But in the meantime - let's take a look at the 'Confederation Of Oceania'.

We have a total population of just over 30 million - out of a total Global population of around 6 BILLION.

As if that wasn't silly enough, most Oceanian's tend to follow 'so-called football' games played with hands and an oval ball.

Okay, so not everybody in the rest of the world follows soccer. There are even Brazilians, Italians and Scots who HATE the game.

But that still leaves a reasonable percentage who follow it - either directly or passively.

When you realise that our microscopic

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

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Stick to State Leagues

Dear Sir,
Thank you for Matija Respodie's enlightening but rather narrow-minded letter. I'd like to reply to that letter.

Of course for you, Matija Respodie, and a few other thousand Melbournites the rivalry of a derby between Croatian and Greek teams with all its color, flamboyance and ethnic rivalry must really leave you, Johnny Warren, Les Murray and your respective communities, drooling.

My oh my, what an extravaganza of football that all Australians can encompass - with one lot holding their Greek flags and chanting "Hellas" and the other lot unfurling their Croat flags, then mainstream Australia can surely look, with the help of the old guard at SBS, forward to the "clash of the Titans."

Fair dinkum - I've heard enough of this trash to last a lifetime. I don't have a problem with ethnic communities wanting to promote their soccer teams, what I do have a problem with though is these communities wanting to strut their stuff in the Ericsson Cup.

Why isn't it good enough, if you don't want to broaden your spectator base and drop your nationalistic emblems etc., that you play in your respective State Leagues?

That way you can still keep your ethnic ties and play your beloved sport.

Anyway isn't this a better result for all concerned considering that the way the Ericsson Cup is going teams such as the Melbourne Knights, Sydney Olympic and a couple of others will really have to show cause why they should not be dropped from the Ericsson Cup?

Certainly the best thing to happen to Soccer in Australia was the appointment of Mr Hill. He knows for soccer not just to

survive in this country but to become a force to be reckoned with, it has to become economically viable. Without the backing of financially strong clubs/companies the passport to success is high impossible.

This concept is a vicious circle - if you don't have success off the park how can you have success on the park and vice-versa? Soccer being a summer sport, is in the enviable position as clubs that foster teams in winter codes have grounds/facilities that are basically unused for half the year.

If those facilities can be used to provide entertainment for club members throughout the year then the logical extension of this is to become involved in activities which do this. The size of the clubs means that the risks involved to not only these clubs but also to soccer in general should be minimised not withstanding this, every effort should be done to encourage these clubs to come on board.

Imagine the Ericsson Cup comprising of say, Manly Seahawks, Penrith Panthers, Collingwood Warriors, Carlton etc. as well as some of the established clubs - five years ago this scenario would have been unheard of.

This will have a flow-on effect as well as commercial interests such as TV and Radio, advertisers want to come on board and get a piece of the action.

Of course certain guarantees have to be given by these participating clubs which legally bind them in promotion and development of the game.

Perhaps in years to come clubs will be dual sponsors of two football codes which not only provides entertainment for its followers throughout the year but gives it another source of revenue.

Stephen Predney,
Merewether, NSW.

Foreign flags out!

Dear Sir,
The best and most positive article ever written by negative Ray Gatt appeared in 'The Australian' this morning July 16, 1996.

It seems that Soccer Australia is finally getting serious at removing logos which depict foreign flags from the playing strips of the Ericsson Cup teams.

The article goes on to say that the clubs concerned will fight this move to the death (sic). the article also makes the point that the Marconi Fairfield logo features a globe, communication tower and a boomerang.

It, however conveniently, fails to pinpoint the fact that the boomerang is green, white and red. If that's not the Italian flag, I am not Mauritian. The secretary of the Marconi club told all and sundry some months ago that Marconi was a club for all people.

Why then the Italian colours on the logo? All people in Fairfield Australia are not Italians.

I believe that clubs who continue to ignore popular opinion to disassociate themselves from the emblems of foreign countries should face expulsion from the national league.

The United States is a multicultural country but the teams in their major soccer league do not feature foreign emblems on their shirts. Neither do teams in Croatia, France, England, Italy, Mauritius etc, etc.

The sponsor of Sydney United, Mr Franovic was quoted as saying that he is more Australian than the boomerang. If that is so, why then the Croatian emblem? Croatia is not in Sydney Australia. Surely they could live up to their name of Sydney United by starting to unite people behind a genuinely open club.

The majority of supporters and dare I say, club members, will welcome the move by Soccer Australia. The move is designed to push our sport to a respectable level of acceptance by the broader community.

The merchandising of soccer gear will also benefit by such a move. We certainly need the exposure.

The six clubs who are holding up the process must be shoved aside. There are many progressive clubs waiting for the chance to be part of the Australian Soccer scene 1996 style.

Serge Armansin,
Everton Hills QLD 4053.



Joao Havelange: Used Oceania to check Lennart Johansson's 'visionary' move.

That's what Oceania is in the world of football - a desert. If somebody can convince me it's otherwise, I am all ears.

Perhaps they could begin by showing us a plan on how to arrest the greatest single problem in Australian soccer today - the player drain.

Even out of season, hardly a week goes by without another name being added to the exodus.

Perhaps Charlie has some plan or even contacts with Oceanian businessmen who will put money into the game to stop some of our top players from leaving for mediocre English first-division clubs?

I may be wrong but I believe that competing in Asian Competitions might have helped bring in some of that desperately-needed cash.

I can see no other way of raising the necessary revenue.

I like to think of myself as a pragmatist, a lot of those who stay and suffer Aussie soccer against the incredible odds - do likewise.

But, you've got to make some sense of it all and I'm afraid I can't see much beyond an old Scottish/Kiwi pawn who got to checkmate the European King moved by his own crafty, devious Brazilian King.

The 6 Confederations which make up FIFA and their estimated populations.

EUROPE (including Asian Russia)	700 millions
CONMEBOL (South America)	300 million
AFRICA	500 million
ASIA	3.2 Billion
CONCACAF (North and Central America)	400 million
OCEANIA	30 million



Atlanta 1996
TM. © 1992 ACOG

Argentina conceded a goal after just 35 seconds, but bounced back to beat their

Atlanta Olympic Games Football Tournament

Group A & Group B summaries

American hosts 3-1 in a dramatic start to the Olympic football tournament on Sunday.

Claudio Reyna put the United States ahead virtually from the kick off in the Group A match against Argentina in

Birmingham, Alabama. He fired a volley into the top of the net from a firmly driven cross.

A shock seemed on the cards until Gustavo Lopez claimed an equaliser in the 35th minute. The

inexperienced American side still kept up the pace until Hernan Crespo brilliantly turned in a cross past goalkeeper Kasey Keller 11 minutes into the second half.

Diego Simeone, part of the Argentina World Cup team,

sealed the win in the first minute of stoppage time.

Saudi Arabia had the better chances in their match against Spain at the Florida Citrus Bowl in Orlando. But Oscar Garcia brilliantly headed in a cross 10 minutes from the end

to give his side two valuable points in the tough group.

Saudi centre forward Hamzah Falatah looked the most dangerous player on the field and saw several chances narrowly saved by Spanish goalkeeper Juan Mora. One 35 metre shot brought a full stretch save from Mora.

Alfonso Martins scored both goals in Portugal's bruising Group C encounter with Tunisia that started the day. Both teams were reduced to 10 men in a match that saw a clutch of yellow and red cards brandished.

Martins opened the scoring for Portugal, a strong medal contender in the football competition, just 12 minutes into the first half of the match at the RFK Stadium in Washington.

Six minutes into the second half, Tunisia had the chance to



Atlanta 1996
TM. © 1992 ACOG

equalise through a penalty but Adel Sellim crashed the ball against the crossbar.

In the 78th minute, Martins collected his second goal after a horrible mistake by the Tunisian keeper.

Looking to cross the ball from a seemingly harmless position on the left of the Tunisian penalty area, Martins saw the goalkeeper woefully out of position and simply stroked the ball inside the near post.

Tunisia had Riadh Bouazizi, who had already been booked, sent off for a clumsy challenge on Dominguez.

Portugal's Andrade later joined him for a crunching tackle from behind.

COACHING CLINICS



Coaching Clinics are generally held at School Holiday times. They vary in their structure from five half days, to a couple of full days and any combination in between.

The cost of the clinics, or camps, range from inexpensive to expensive but you usually get what you pay

for.

A star player is often in attendance which attracts the aspiring youngsters.

Sydney Cosmos, an ambitious NSW club, based in the eastern suburbs attracted 260 players to their recent camp (below). The participants came in a range of soccer shirts from all over the globe.

Joe Watson the former Australian international with the heavy Scots accent was the man in charge.

Joe is the coach of Sydney Cosmos.

The club were delighted with the overwhelming turnout.

There were about 60 in attendance at the Gabbie Stadium, Blacktown for a two

day session run by Soccer Coaching International (above).

Francis Awaritefe and Matthew Bingley from Marconi along with Frank Farina, all Australian internationals joined Norman Whiteside.

Whiteside was forced out of the game with a leg injury in his mid twenties after more

than 200 games with Manchester United.

Whiteside came out to Australia with the Managing Director of SCI, Gary Williams and visited Perth, Adelaide, Blacktown and Newcastle.

Both coaching clinics were well received and both voted great value for money.



POPOVIC IN ENGLAND

Australian defender Tony Popovic has left for England for a second trial with first division West Midlands Wolverhampton.

The 22-year-old Popovic plays as a sweeper-central

defender for Sydney United in the national league.

"Tony has gone to London and I believe he will be joining Wolves for a short European tour," his father confirmed last week.

Wolves will tour Austria and Germany, playing two matches in each country as part of their pre-season training.

Popovic had briefly trained

with the club in March before joining the Socceroos in their 1-

0 loss to Scotland at Glasgow's Hampden Park.

He has worked his way through the ranks from the Under 17 national side to the Young Socceroos and played for Australia at the Barcelona Olympics.

Popovic was captain of United and is expected to join

the list of Australians overseas if his performance on the Wolves tour results in a contract offer.

If he can reach agreement with Wolves then he will join Joe Spiteri who will also be joining the ambitious 'Black Country' club after the Olympic Games.

TASMANIA WREST POINT LEAGUE

14/7/96

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia Glenorchy	11	7	1	3	28	22	22
Devonport	11	6	3	2	38	21	21
White Eagle	11	7	0	4	40	23	21
Launceston Juventus	10	6	2	2	23	16	20
Olympia	11	6	1	4	20	25	19
Hobart Juventus	10	5	1	4	26	24	16
Caledonian	11	3	4	4	22	24	13
Riverside Olympic	11	3	2	6	23	27	11
South Hobart	11	3	2	6	19	26	11
Launceston	11	0	0	11	9	40	0

Hobart Juventus	6	Croatia Glenorchy	3
Olympia	3	Launceston	1
Launceston Juventus	3	South Hobart	1
Riverside Olympic	3	Caledonian	3
White Eagle	4	Devonport	2

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PREMIER

Adelaide	0	Salisbury Utd	1
White City	2	Port Adelaide	0
Raiders	0	Olympians	0
Croydon	0	Campbelltown City	2

TABLE

White City	16	11	3	2	36	19	36
Adelaide Blue Eagles	16	9	1	6	40	30	28
Salisbury United	16	7	3	6	17	21	24
Campbelltown City	16	6	5	5	28	21	23
Raiders	16	5	5	6	27	28	20
Olympians	16	4	5	7	27	36	17
Port Adelaide Lion	16	4	5	7	25	34	17
Croydon	16	4	1	11	25	36	13

STATE LEAGUE

Plympton	6	Seaford	1
Cumberland United	2	West Adelaide	1
Noarlunga Utd	2	Enfield City	1
Modbury	0	Para Hills Knights	1
Port Pirie	0	W Trens Birkalla	1
Adelaide City	1	Elizabeth City	2

TABLE

Elizabeth City	17	12	2	3	34	19	38
West Torrens Birkalla	17	11	4	2	48	20	37
Cumberland Utd	17	12	1	4	34	17	37
Noarlunga United	17	11	1	5	33	21	34
Para Hills Knights	17	10	3	4	55	27	33
Plympton	17	7	3	7	30	24	24
Modbury	17	6	5	6	26	25	23
West Adelaide	17	4	5	8	24	28	17
Port Pirie	17	5	2	10	31	42	17
Adelaide City	17	3	4	10	26	43	13
Enfield City	17	4	1	12	18	38	13
Seaford	17	1	1	15	11	66	4

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

Basement battle wide open

The battle of the wooden spoons intensified last Saturday when Swan IC downed fellow door-mats Olympic Kingsway 2-0 in an ordinary encounter at the Italian Club Ground.

A goal in each half provided Swan with only their second victory in this centenary season, but while the result saw the two sides change places there is no relegation to worry about,

simply pride.

The game was only two minutes old when Darren Freeman ghosted in on a second corner from Carlo Scali to power a superb fifteen metre header past Peter Evans.

As early as the goal was, Kingsway never looked like they could rescue the situation as they constantly struggled to penetrate their opponents rigid rearguard.

One of Olympics rare raids for the first half came in the 31st minute when diminutive winger Danny Carlino battled his way into the Swan danger zone and lined up Mike Ortin when directly in front, but the striker failed to find his shooting boots just as he was about to strike.

Their next equalising chance came in the 51st minute when a Graham Normanton free-kick was pumped goalwards by substitute James Mander only to see Craig Reid clear the ball off the line.

After Greg Scali rattled the top-bar with a 30 metre missile in the 54th minute, his brother Damien Scali made it 2-0 three minutes further on

when after brushing off his marker Jamie Darcy, he completed the move with an unstoppable curling drive over a stranded Evans.

After Damien Scali cleared a Rob Travers strike away from the line in the 87th minute, Swan substitute Alan Duddy provided the last action of the game with a ranking long range strike that brought the best out of Evans in the first minute of added time.

Fellow league strugglers Western Knights went a long way to avoiding bottom spot by defeating Floreat Athena 2-0, the goals coming from Trim Morgan and Gerry Christie.

WA Soccer earns respect of the powers at Soccer Australia

WA Soccer has earned much respect in recent years with famous victories by the State team over star-studded sides like Werder Bremen, Nottingham Forest and West Ham United.

The 3-2 win over Germany's European Cup Winners Cup champion Bremen in 1992 was achieved with a late goal from Carl McDarby after youngsters Tony Carbone and Stan Lazaridis had also made a dramatic impact on the game with golden goals.

Last year, WA. showed tremendous fighting qualities to come from a goal down after 15 minutes to beat English premier league side Forest 2-1. The goals this time flowed from Lazaridis and Slobodan Despotovski.

And, 10 days earlier, the State side snared a penalty shoot-out victory over West Ham following a heartstopping game which had been tied at 2-2 after 90 minutes. WA's goals in normal time came from Despotovski and Michael Roki.

Stan Lazaridis performed so well against the Hammers that he ended up with a full time professional contract in London.

Although the State team went down in May to Italian giants Sampdoria by 3 goals to nil, nevertheless Vas Kalogeracos was invited to trial in Italy.

The successes helped to open the eyes of the rest of Australia that WA deserved a team in the national league after patiently waiting for an invitation since the formation of Australia-wide soccer with the Phillips league in 1977.

The Eastern States-based soccer rulers issued an invitation in June, 1994, but the push to get a Perth side

involved only gathered momentum last year when David Hill took over as Soccer Australia chairman and set out to make the so called national league a truly



national competition.

Arena Investments was given the licence and, last December at the official launch, the consortium stunned the rest of Australia by coming up with a cheeky name for the team Perth Glory.

Shades of things to come? We can only hope that there will be many glory days ahead.

Glory will enter the national competition in October, at the start of the 1996-97 season. It's anticipated the new season will kick off with the Johnnie Walker Cup competition, followed by the Ericsson Cup from October.

It's going to be an expensive venture, requiring a budget of \$1.5 million in the first year.

Glory director Paul Afkos said that the club's single biggest expense would be wages for players, coaches and support staff. This would come to nearly 40 per cent of the annual bill.

The Glory is hoping to cover its \$1.5 million bill by averaging home gates of 3500, by attracting a healthy supporters club membership and by picking up considerable corporate sponsorship.

Top-Four Showdown Disappoints

Inglewood Falcons opened up a five point buffer on nearest rivals Spearwood Dalmatinac with a 1-0 win at the Kiev Sports Ground, but what was expected to be a close and enthralling battle between the third and fourth placed sides, turned out to be one that was practically devoid of excitement.

Only defenders Tony Hall and Lou Collova plus Norrie Sutton for Inglewood, and Dean Gartside, John Mirco and Lee Warren for Spearwood emerged as the pick of the best performers.

The goal came in the fifth minute when John Hunter sent Denis Muzaferovic on a flank run. The midfielder then threaded the ball through the Spearwood defence to Ian Ballantyne who swiftly and accurately guided the ball home inside the near post of Robert Zabica's goal.

The best chance for Spearwood to draw level came four minutes from time when they

were awarded a penalty after Martin Woodall brought down substitute John Mirco. But the normally reliable Derek Combe, who recently announced his retirement at the end of the season, saw his spot-kick brilliantly stopped by Ron More. Combe then should have tucked away the rebound but More again smothered



Ian Ballantyne: Helped Inglewood to a narrow win with the only goal of the game.

the shot, thus ensuring the Falcons secure maximum points together with a fourth consecutive clean sheet.

Meanwhile, Premier League leaders Bayswater Panthers maintained their position at the top of the tree, with a 1-0 victory over Sorrento at the Percy Doyle Reserve.

A blistering 63rd minute goal by speedy winger Jason Van Rooy courtesy of a John Hunter centre, was the only compensation for a game that lacked passion.



Bayswater City Panthers: Are leading the table on goal difference over Stirling.

Perth Shock Stirling

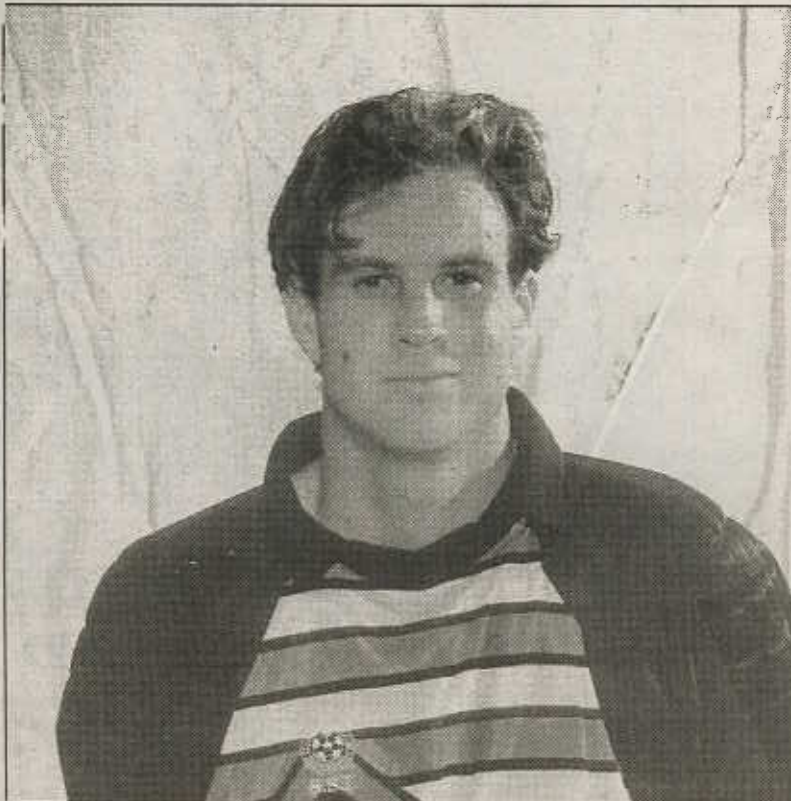
Perth kept their top-four hopes alive with a surprise 3-1 triumph over Stirling Macedonia in the Sunday game at a damp Dorrien Gardens.

The result has also placed Bayswater in the home straight for their first league title, since they are now three points clear on top of a far superior goal averages with four rounds to go.

The championship may reveal a winner next week when the Panthers and the defending champions clash at Bayswater Oval.

Stirling got off to a flying start in the third minute when a Rob Milevski header was first tipped onto the crossbar by Vince Matassa. Stirling forward Peter Murphy was first to reach the rebound and found the target with a diving header.

Perth equalised in the 69th minute when Peter Coci took full advantage of the wet and slippery conditions by tucking away a dropped ball from 'keeper Gary Whyatt.



Vince Matassa: Performing well in goal for Perth SC hoping for a contract for with the Glory.

PREMIER LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

Swan IC	2	Olympic Kingsway	0
Soprento	0	Bayswater Panthers	1
Western Knights	2	Floreat Athena	0
Inglewood Falcons	1	Spearwood Dal	0
Perth	3	Stirling Macedonia	1

RESERVES

Swan IC	2	Olympic Kingsway	4
Sorrento	3	Bayswater Panthers	3
Western Knights	2	Floreat Athena	2
Inglewood Falcons	1	Spearwood Dal	2
Perth	3	Stirling Macedonia	4

UNDER 18

Swan IC	3	Olympic Kingsway	0
Sorrento	2	Bayswater Panthers	2
Western Knights	2	Floreat Athena	2
Inglewood Falcons	0	Spearwood Dal	2

DIVISION ONE

Bassendean Cale	5	Cockburn United	1
Joondalup City	2	Balcatta	0
Morley Windmills	1	Balcatta	0
Morley Windmills	1	Perth City	2
Southside United	1	Ashfield-Bunbury	2
North Lake Espanol	2	Fremantle City	2
Rockingham City	2	Dianella WE	2

DIVISION TWO

Balga	2	Melville Corinthians	1
Queens Park	2	Stirling Vardar	1
Wanneroo City	2	Armadale Park	3
University	2	Western Yugal	0

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bayswater	14	11	1	2	35	10	34
Inglewood	14	10	2	2	26	14	32
Stirling	14	10	1	3	29	17	31
Spearwood	14	9	0	5	24	20	27
Perth SC	14	8	2	4	28	19	26
Floreat	14	4	5	5	23	26	17
Sorrento	14	3	2	9	15	22	11
Western K	14	3	2	9	18	25	11

LEADING SCORERS

19	Robbie Perruzza	Bayswater
10	Peter Coci	Perth
9	Peter Murphy	Stirling
8	Vas Kalogeracos	Floreat
7	Neil Blunt	Sorrento
7	Rob Milevski	Stirling
7	Trim Morgan	W/Knights
7	Eugen Singeorzan	W/Knights
7	Dale Wingell	Perth SC
6	Damien Scali	Swan IC
6	Norrie Sutton	Inglewood



QUEENSLAND

XXXX League



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006 Phone: (07) 3252-5327 Fax: (07) 3252-1137

City romp in seven goal win

BY GLENN DAVIS

Gold Coast club Nerang went within five minutes of busting the Fourx League competition wide open until former National league striker Kevin Meacock smashed two late goals to steal victory for Brisbane Lions at Glennon Park on Sunday.

With nearest rivals Brisbane City posting a huge 7-nil romp over cellar dwellers North Star and Rochedale Rovers holding out a spirited Coalstars 3-1, Brisbane Lions needed victory to maintain its five point lead at the top of the table with just two matches remaining.

Brisbane Lions, who have been in scintillating form of late, were a goal down following a first half strike from Nerang's Steve Fitzsimmons, until Meacock grabbed the equaliser on 85 minutes. Then with just two minutes of play remaining, the former Brisbane Striker's marksman found the back of the net for the match winner at the same time Brisbane City and Rochedale were celebrating their victories.

Lions went into the match with a far superior goal difference than Brisbane City, but both sides are now level, although Lions are marginally ahead having scored more goals whose tally soared following a Lee Scriggens hat-trick, a double from Ian Hutchinson and a solitary effort from Damien Waugh.

Brisbane City have let slip an 11 point first round lead and if they are to have any hope of winning the premiership must rely on former second division club Beenleigh to duplicate their shock win over Brisbane City a fortnight ago, when they confront Brisbane Lions.

Rochedale Rovers' win kept their slim premiership hopes alive at Bundamba, but as well as Beenleigh upsetting Brisbane Lions next round, Rochedale also require strugglers Grange Thistle to surprise Lions if their premiership dream is to become reality.

Rochedale, who are proven bad travellers to Bundamba in past years, only had themselves to blame for allowing the youthful Coalstars to be in with a chance of snatching a draw late in the game.

Rochedale went to the break leading 1-0 following an Andy Lees' chip, but it could easily have been three of four more.

In a howling westerly which shipped up the

Bundamba dust, striker Keiran Cooper was in menacing form in the opening half, combining in a lethal partnership up front with the terrorising Lees.

A clever back heel from Cooper in the box to Lees almost produced a shock opener on two minutes, with Lee's strike shaving the upright.

Cooper had a shot blocked on 10 minutes. Six minutes later he watched a well-timed strike deflected wide while another 20 metre blast with his left foot also was only narrowly off target.

Although Rochedale peppered the Coalstars goal their only reward came on 30 minutes when Coalstars' advancing keeper Kevin Farrar parried an attempted



Kieran Cooper: Rochedale striker chipped perfectly from 20 metres.

Lees' chip which fell perfectly for the striker to side foot home.

It was only four minutes after the break when Farrar again was called upon tipping a deceptive curling free kick from Darren Hillier over the crossbar.

Coalstars, who hardly tested Rochedale rookie Keeper Cameron duck in the first half, grabbed the equaliser six minutes after the resumption from an own goal from fullback Damian Harris who attempted to clear a rifling left wing cross from Coalstars' Wes Park.

Poor concentration from the Coalstars defence was mostly responsible for Rochedale striking back to hit the lead 2-1 just three

minutes later.

A wayward pass among Coalstars back four fell perfectly for Cooper who neatly chipped Farrar from 20 metres.

Rochedale hung on grimly to the lead as Coalstars pushed men forward, but the visitor's defence proved too stern a test for the young coalstars' outfit.

In the final few minutes Coalstars had Park sent from the field after incurring his second caution before the visitors wrapped up the match with a late header from Harris off a Hillier free kick to give Rochedale a deserved 3-1 win.



Michael Brockwell: Capalaba Bulldogs goal getter.

QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

Coalstars	1	Rochedale	3
Nerang	1	Brisbane Lions	2

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Brisbane Lions	20	16	1	3	50	22	49
Brisbane City	20	14	2	4	47	19	44
Rochedale Rovers	20	13	4	3	66	22	43
Beenleigh	20	11	2	7	25	26	35
Wynnum District	20	10	4	6	37	29	34
Taringa Rovers	20	9	3	8	48	32	30
Nerang Soccer Club	19	7	3	9	35	39	24
Pine Rivers United	19	7	1	11	33	42	22
Coalstars	20	6	3	11	29	34	21
Grange Thistle	20	6	3	11	23	56	21
Eastern Suburbs	20	4	3	13	25	41	15
North Star	20	1	1	18	15	71	4

DIVISION TWO

Rocklea	2	St. Alban	1
The Gap	3	Acacia Ridge	0
Albany Creek	5	Willowburn	1
Inala City	1	Logan City Kings	0

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Olympic United	20	14	4	2	56	28	46
Rocklea United	20	14	3	3	50	23	45
St Albans	20	10	3	7	44	34	33
Mount Gravatt	20	8	7	5	42	34	31
Inala City United	20	10	1	9	40	40	31
Albany Creek Ex	20	8	5	7	44	47	29
Acacia Ridge	20	7	4	9	35	39	25
The Gap	20	7	4	9	30	38	25
C'p'ba Soccer & Rec	20	4	8	8	39	45	20
Logan City Kings	20	5	4	11	31	33	19
Willowburn	20	4	5	11	24	42	17
Ipswich St Helens Utd	20	4	2	14	18	50	14

DIVISION THREE

—NO MATCHES SCHEDULED LAST WEEKEND—

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Slacks Creek	19	16	2	1	68	9	50
Mitchelton	19	14	1	4	65	19	43
Newmarket	19	13	2	4	37	18	41
Souths United	19	9	5	5	43	24	32
Redlands United	19	9	2	8	40	26	29
Uni of Queensland	19	8	3	8	38	33	27
Goodna & Districts	19	7	6	6	29	24	27
Darra United	19	7	5	7	39	38	26
Latrobe Athletic	19	5	4	10	40	52	19
Annerley Recreation	19	4	5	10	29	43	17
Cl'vx Soccer Club Inc	19	2	1	16	25	72	7
Western Suburbs	19	2	0	17	12	107	6

DIVISION FOUR

Southside Eagles	1	South Star	1
Moggill Utd	3	Browns Plains	0

TABLES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Moggill United	19	15	1	3	55	11	46
South Star	19	14	2	3	59	22	44
Bayside United	19	13	1	5	51	26	40
Southside Eagles	19	11	4	4	38	22	37
Brothers United	19	11	2	6	51	38	35
North Pine United	19	11	2	6	40	29	35
Redcliffe City	19	8	5	6	48	42	29
Samford	19	6	3	10	36	30	21
Pine Hills	19	5	1	13	23	54	16
Greenbank	19	3	2	14	37	76	11
Ipswich City	19	2	2	15	16	63	8
Browns Plains	19	2	1	16	21	62	7

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

This Week's Matches...

Saturday, July 27 (Round 21)

North Star v Pine Rivers O'Callaghan Park 7.00pm

Sunday, July 28

Brisbane Lions v Beenleigh Lions Stadium 2.45pm

Eastern Suburbs v Rochedale Rovers Heath Park 2.45pm

Brisbane City v Grange Thistle Perry Park 2.30pm

Taringa Rovers v Coalstar Jack Speare Park 2.45pm

Wynnum v Nerang Perry Park 12.30pm

Northern New South Wales

NBN FIRST DIVISION

Highfields	3	Westy Workers Bluebells	0
Broadmeadow Magic	0	Weston Workers Bears ..	2
Deloraine Eagles	5	Maitland Magpies	1
Wallsend Red Devils	1	Cessnock Hornets	0
Pasminco Roosters	0	Hamilton Warriors	2

RESERVE GRADE

Highfields	4	Westy Workers Bluebells	1
Broadmeadow Magic	0	Weston Workers Bears ..	3
Deloraine Eagles	3	Maitland Magpies	1
Wallsend Red Devils	8	Cessnock Hornets	0
Pasminco Roosters	0	Hamilton Warriors	2

TOOHEYS FIRST GRADE

Lambton Jaffas	7	Belmont-Swansea	2
Singleton Strikers	1	Dudley-Redhead Utd ..	2
Sth Cardiff Gunners	2	Belmont Tigers	1
Thornton Park	0	Budgewoi Budgies	0
Stockton Sharks	4	Beresfield Utd	3
Toronto-Awaba	2	Manning Mustangs	3

TOOHEYS RESERVE GRADE

Lambton Jaffas	3	Belmont-Swansea	1
Singleton Strikers	1	Dudley-Redhead Utd ..	5
Sth Cardiff Gunners	2	Belmont Tigers	3
Thornton Park	3	Budgewoi Budgies	0
Stockton Sharks	0	Beresfield Utd	8
Toronto-Awaba	4	Manning Mustangs	1

NBN FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Weston Workers Bears	17	14	3	0	51	19	45
Highfields Wolves	17	13	2	2	55	10	41
Hamilton Warriors	17	12	1	4	37	25	37
Wallsend Red Devils	17	9	3	5	26	14	30
Deloraine Eagles	17	9	1	7	37	20	28
Westy Workers B'ells	17	5	3	9	26	39	18
Broadmeadow Magic	17	5	2	10	29	48	17
Maitland Magpies	17	4	3	10	26	39	15

"WOLVES OUTPLAY BUDS IN CUP"

BY DANE SKAFTE

Highfields Wolves showed plenty of determination with a 2-1 victory over NSW Super League team Adamstown Rosebuds in the Waratah Cup clash which was played at Whitebridge Oval last Wednesday night.

The first half remained scoreless with Highfields dominating for the majority of the 45 minutes.

Highfields took the lead ten minutes into the second half after Ty Turner fired a low shot to beat the diving Adamstown keeper Liam Baker who had come on at the break for Clint Gosling. It wasn't long before the Wolves went further ahead after Mick Williams outplayed Buds defender Graham Jennings. He noticed Baker off his line and chipped the ball. But his shot hit the upright. Mark Wilson was on hand to finish off and seal the match. With ten minutes left Adamstown were awarded a penalty after Wolves defender Howard Treddnick deliberately handled the ball in his own penalty area. Treddnick was lucky to stay on the park after referee Robbie Davis only pulled out a yellow card. Buds defender Graham Jennings made no mistake with his kick sending Craig Shanko the wrong way.

A very happy Wolves coach Steve Bland said after the match, "I was pleased with the boys tonight, after last weekend's loss to Broadmeadow."

"They set themselves a task tonight and they stuck to it."

Bland agreed that his side

should have scored a couple of more goals.

"Adamstown are a more physical side than us but we controlled the ball more."

"I was very pleased with our younger players Doug West (17) and Ty Turner (18) they played quite well."

"The sky is the limit to these young guys" Bland concluded. Adamstown coach Neville Power agreed with Wolves coach that the score should have been much greater.

"I was disappointed with our commitment we didn't get forward in our attack. We fell down on the basics."

"We started to play well in the last fifteen minutes but it was all too late."

With only sixteen teams remaining in the Cup Highfields will now face either a national or state



Ty Turner: The teenager opened the scoring for Wolves.

league side in their next game to be played on August 31 or September 1.

WESTON BEARS HAVE THAT MAGIC FEELING

BY JAI McDERMOTT

The Weston Workers Bears wrapped an elusive first division minor premierships last Sunday with a dour 2-0 win over Broadmeadow Magic.

Bears captain Peter Oberhauser was ecstatic with their achievement, describing it as due "credit to the close knit (Coalfields) club."

With just one round remaining Weston hold an unsailable 4-0 lead over Highfields.

Yet to be beaten this year, the Bears must now be strong favourites to win their second consecutive grand final. A healthy crowd attended Adamstown Oval hoping to see a repeat of last week's shock victory over Highfields.

However, gail-force winds and a bumpy surface did little to help the match as a spectacle and a Broadmeadow outfit beleaguered by injury and suspension were soon struggling.

As early as the ninth minute there were signs of

strength on the ball, the Bears forward continually cruised past defenders, creating havoc in the heart of the Magic defence.

Tressider was well supported by left flanker Neville Smith. A model of consistency, Smith provided magnificent service from wide areas and helped the Bears gain control of the match through midfield.

His ability to beat his marker is complemented by his ball-winning skills and he will prove a potent weapon for Weston come final time.

Broadmeadow attempted to fight back with their short passing game working well despite the poor playing surface.

Robert Kolarovski and Tony Parezanovic created some half chances from midfield but the Magic's sorely missed the finishing prowess of injured front-runner Steven Kacev.

In the twenty sixth minute though Weston extended their lead, Ian Tressider collecting his and the Bears second.

Tressider did well to hold



Norman Whiteside: In Newcastle for a coaching clinic last week.

mixture of bad luck and some poor finishing prevented Weston from adding to the half time score.

Replacement striker Tony Nikolovski almost pulled the goal back with minutes remaining but he hit a tame volley into the grateful arms of Oberhauser.

Referee Barry Ross finally

ended the match and the Weston celebrations began.

Oberhauser spoke on behalf of his team mates claiming the premierships "Just reward for the patience and consistency of the sport." He said, however the minor premierships was just the first stage of a three faze goal.

They are on track to

achieve both the others: to remain undefeated and to win the grand final.

The Bears goalkeeper praised the consistency of his team, particularly the close knit nature of the squad: "Losing Justin (Kavanagh) was a big shock but the squad is close knit and we seem to come through dramas pretty well. It's a shame he can't play but he's still a part of it all."

Magic coach John Belleff was satisfied with his team's performance considering the ravages of injury and suspension: "We were under strength from last week. We've still got plenty of positives. If we beat Maitland next week we'll be sixth. After all we've been through this year, that's not a bad result."

Belleff paid tribute to the consistency of the Bears. Whilst congratulating their minor premierships achievement, the Magic boss rated Highfields as the competitions best team and tipped them for the grand final.

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

BY PHIL MURPHY

A Westderra Under 19 player has been banned for life after attacking a lineswoman. Michael Guevara (19), attacked teenaged lineswoman Amanda Ward during the youth league game against Wollongong Olympic at Unanderra Oval.

The lineswoman avoided the man impact of the kick by stepping to one side and the game was immediately abandoned. An ISA hearing decided that Guevara would be banned and it was not known if he would appeal. Before his hearing, the Westderra player said he was sorry for his actions.

"If they want to ban me they can and there is not much I can do about it," Guevara said "I lost my temper and that has never happened before."

Guevara said he had been playing soccer for 15 years without getting into any trouble.

Club president Gerard Maher said the player had a very good record and the incident was out of character.

However, the Westderra committee also placed a ban on Guevara after a special meeting.

The ISA came up with a novel promotion this weekend. They have changed the format of their Sunday feature match to allow first division teams Wollongong White Eagles and Kemblawarra to take centre-stage.

The teams are locked together in a battle for the first division championship.

Both have been drawing big crowds and Sunday's game could well decide the title.

Association president Norm Flanagan told ABSW the clash would take place at Clunas Oval and should draw a very big crowd.

"These two clubs have created a lot of interest," Flanagan said.

"There is plenty at stake in this game and we believe it worthy of the Sunday game."

Young striker Trevor Whiddett grabbed a hat-trick in Westderra's 3-2 win against Dapto on Saturday.

Whiddett, who plays with Wollongong City's youth team during the summer and was top goalscorer in that league, could repeat the dose in the premier league.

The youngster gave Dapto's defence a hectic afternoon and could still help this club battle their way out of relegation trouble.

Coniston are also making a strong bid to get away from the bottom since Harry Sattin returned to the club as coach.

On Saturday, they were too strong for Northern United, winning 4-1 after it had been 1-1 at half-time.

In other Saturday games, leaders Lysaghts outclassed West-Figtree 4-0 while Cringila and Fernhill played a scoreless draw.

Wollongong Olympic coach John Fleming believes the "vibes" are right. Fleming made that statement after watching his team beat Bulli 4-0 in the match of the round at Brandon Park on Sunday.

Frank Barila, Con Spyrou and Manny Mavridis got the goals and Fleming is confident his team can go all the way.

The former Wollongong Wolves boss said he can sense things have come good within the club. "We have a lot of things going for us at the moment," Fleming said.

"Team spirit, in particular, is great and we have every reason to be confident."

On Saturday, Olympic face an important game against Dapto.

Newly promoted Dapto have faltered after a bright start to the season and Olympic must be favoured to collect the three points.

In other Wollongong news, Illawarra Lions coach Glenn Fontana will quit the club at the end of the season.

Fontana has taken on the role of coaching co-ordinator at the Illawarra Academy of Sport.



SUPER LEAGUE	1st	U/21
Central Coast v Bankstown City	1-2	1-2
Bankstown City v Rockdale City Suns	3-2	0-4
St George v Macarthur Rams	2-1	0-1
Illawarra Lions v Parramatta Eaglesw	1-3	0-5

DIVISION ONE	1st	U/21	U/18
Penrith Panthers v Dulwich Hill	5-0	4-1	2-0
Stanmore Hawks v Mt Druitt Town	3-0	0-0	1-1
Auburn United v Belmore Hercules	1-1	5-0	1-6
Ryde City v Fairfield Bulls	0-0	2-1	1-0
Hills City v Mt Pritchard	1-1	4-1	3-0
Southern Minotaurs v Bathurst '75	1-1	3-1	2-2
West Wanderers v Sydney Cosmos	1-2	0-2	0-1

DIVISION TWO	1st	U/21	U/18
Sydney District v Trasandinos	3-0	0-0	
Liverpool City v Concord Juniors	2-0	1-0	3-0
Parramatta City v Greystanes	1-1	0-0	2-3
Alexandria Warriors v Gr'ville G'sland	7-0	9-0	1-3
Hurstville v Concord Juniors	1-2	0-7	2-2
Trasandinos v Liverpool City	2-1	2-0	0-4
Prairiewood United v AC United	1-1	1-2	2-0
Sydney District v Uni of NSW	1-0	0-2	3-2

DIVISION THREE	1st	2nd
Moorebank Sports v St Johns Park	4-2	
The Wanderers v Hawksbury City	5-1	1-4
Moorebank Sports v White City	3-2	1-1
Gladesville Utd v Sporting SCC	5-0	2-0
Earlwood Hermes v Prospect United	0-14	1-3
Colo Colo v Glebe Wanderers	1-1	0-2
Hakoah v St Johns Park	3-2	2-0

DIVISION FOUR	1st	2nd
Angels Liverpool v St Josephs	4-1	5-1
Sydney University v Canley Vale Condors	2-1	3-1
CSI Schofield v Springwood	3-0	0-1
Fairfield Kings v Marrickville Reds	2-1	1-1
Fraser Park v Lithgow Workmen	1-0	9-1
Balmain v Arncliffe Scots	0-2	0-5

DIVISION FIVE	1st	2nd
Mascot Kings v Maroubra United	3-1	1-4
Gladesville Hornsby v Kosciusko	0-4	0-4
AVA United v Camden	0-5	3-1
Nepean Districts v United Eagles	0-0	4-0

DIVISION SIX	1st	2nd
Queens Park v Blacktown Premier	0-2	0-2
Racing v UWS Macarthur	3-2	4-0
Bossy v Homenetmen	P/P	2-3

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S	1st	2nd
St George v Sutherland	0-0	0-0
Sydney Cosmos v NNSW ITC	1-1	N/A
Gladesville Ravens v Marconi	0-7	0-2
Sydney Cosmos v Penrith	N/A	1-2
Sydney Cosmos v NNSW	1-1	N/A

DIVISION TWO	1st	2nd
Macarthur 1 v St George Association	0-4	
Bathurst v Penrith Panthers	7-0	
Sydney United v University of NSW	0-3	
Sydney Cosmos v Moorebank 1	0-0	
Macarthur 2 v Illawarra Lions	0-9	
Liverpool Olympic v Moorebank 2	3-0	

Karavataakis goes overseas

St George coach Peter Skatholos believes the Saints can overcome the loss of elusive winger Steve Karavataakis and stay on track for a NSW Super League soccer grand final berth.

Katholos rejected suggestions that the Saints would probably fade without his main goalscorer, who has gone overseas for the rest of the season.

"His (Karavataakis') loss is a big blow for us, especially as he was scoring plenty of goals in recent weeks but I believe we have the squad to overcome that loss," Katholos said.

"We have plenty of other goalscorers in the team and I know they are ready for a big finish to the season.

"John Buonavoglia is starting to find the back of the net on a regular basis while

Daniel Totaro and James Magiasis have both scored five goals so far this season, so the talent is there.

"The good thing is we're

creating plenty of chances so I know that someone will at least score the goals when required."



Mike Grbevski: Will be expected to score goals for the Saints.

Saints just keep on track

St George Saints player Coach, Peter Katholos, was a relieved man after his side fought hard to overcome a determined Macarthur Rams 2-1 in the New South Wales Super League at St George Stadium.

Needing to win in order to overtake Sutherland on the table, midfielder Vince Savoca scored from a corner kick taken by Katholos with 15 minutes to go.

Slumped on the dressing room bench after the game, Katholos said, "It was a tough match.

I did not think they would be so motivated after losing their midweek Waratah Cup match and basically having nothing else to play for coming into this game."

"However, we really only have ourselves to blame for being in that position in the second half after we missed a host of first half chances," he added.

Running with a strong wind in the opening half, the Saints continually bombarded the Rams penalty area but could not find a way past excellent goalkeeper David Hayes.

However, shortly after the break, the Saints took the lead in unusual circumstances. John Buonavoglia, who caused the Rams defence numerous problems appeared to be fouled in the penalty area but referee Simon Micallef played the advantage as players hesitated.

Mike Grbevski challenged Hayes beating the keeper to the ball and scoring the easiest goal of his career from only five metres.

The Rams players

Thomsen's cross from the right.

But it was Savoca returning from a four week suspension, who kept the Saints in the running for a grand final berth with his well placed shot from 12 metres.

The Saints now move into second position a point behind Parramatta Eagles who beat Illawarra Lions, 2-1 in Wollongong.

David Harding was the Eagles hero scoring a fine double in the first half to set up the victory.



responded quickly with a brilliant goal by Ben Green who ran to the far post to volley home David

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 23

SATURDAY JULY 27

Canterbury Marrickville vs Central Coast
Serbian Centre, 6pm

SUNDAY JULY 28

Adamstown Rosebud vs Leichhardt Tigers

Adamstown Oval, 3pm

St. George Saints vs Sutherland Sharks

St. George Stadium, 3pm

Illawarra Lions vs Rockdale City Suns

Ian McLellan Park, 3pm

Parramatta Eagles vs Blacktown City Demons

Melita Stadium, 3pm

Warringah Dolphins vs Macarthur Rams

Cromer Park, 3pm

Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Bankstown City Lions

Serbian Centre, 3pm

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SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	9	6	3	0	14	5	21
St George Saints	9	6	2	1	21	8	20
Sutherland Sharks	9	5	4	0	12	5	19
Illawarra Lions	9	5	1	3	17	15	16
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	9	4	2	3	16	11	14
Bankstown City	9	4	2	3	15	18	14
Leichhardt Tigers	9	3	4	2	13	14	13
Canterbury Berrys	9	2	4	3	7	10	10
Blacktown City	9	2	3	4	15	14	9
Macarthur Rams	9	3	0	6	9	10	9
Rockdale City Sun	9	2	3	4	13	15	9
Adamstown Rosebud	9	2	5	9	9	19	8
Warringah Dolphin	9	1	3	5	9	14	6
Central Coast	9	0	3	6	8	20	3

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	9	8	1	0	29	7	25
Sutherland Sharks	9	7	1	1	18	2	22
St George Saints	9	6	1	2	29	8	19
Blacktown City	9	6	1	2	26	13	19
Macarthur Rams	9	6	1	2	17	7	19
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	9	4	2	3	16	15	14
Adamstown Rosebud	9	4	0	5	20	23	12
Warringah Dolphin	9	3	2	4	15	16	11
Canterbury Berrys	9	2	2	5	22	27	8
Leichhardt Tigers	9	2	2	5	9	17	8
Rockdale City Sun	9	2	1	6	13	18	7
Central Coast	8	1	2	5	7	16	5
Bankstown City	8	1	2	5	7	23	5
Illawarra Lions	9	0	2	7	6	42	2

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydney Cosmos	20	12	6	2	45	21	42
Belmore Hercules	20	9	7	4	47	27	34
Ryde City	20	9	7	4	31	15	34
Penrith Panthers	20	9	5	6	41	34	32
Auburn United	20	9	5	6	50	54	32
Hills United	20	9	4	7	43	28	31
Bathurst '75	19	7	8	4	26	20	29
West Wanderers	20	6	5	9	27	36	23
Dulwich Hill	19	6	4	9	22	31	22
Stanmore Hawks	20	5	6	9	29	36	21
Fairfield Bulls	19	5	5	9	34	37	20
Sthn Minotaurs	19	5	5	9	25	37	20
Mt Druitt Town	20	5	5	10	24	55	20
Mt Pritchard	20	3	6	11	22	36	15

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Greystanes	18	11	4	3	39	19	37
Concord Juniors	18	9	5	4	41	20	32
Hurstville	18	9	5	4	37	22	32
Sydney District	18	9	5	4	29	23	32
Alexandria Warrior	18	9	4	5	42	26	31
Trasandinos	17	7	4	6	21	27	25
Parramatta City	18	6	5	7	22	22	23
AC United	18	5	6	7	21	27	21
Liverpool City	18	5	4	9	31	31	19
Prairiewood	17	3	6	8	14	29	15
Uni of NSW	17	1	11	5	19	24	14
Granville G/Isld	17	1	3	13	17	63	6

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
NNSW ITC	18	13	4	1	52	12	43
Sydney Cosmos	18	12	2	4	50	19	38
Marconi SC	17	11	3	3	47	17	36
St George	15	7	4	4	39	24	25
Sutherland Shire	16	7	3	6	19	23	24
NSW ITC/Penrith	13	7	2	4	29	18	23
UWS Macarthur	16	5	4	7	19	27	19
Gladesville Raven	17	3	4	10	15	45	13



Nikolce Joseski: Bankstown City striker claimed three from five over the weekend.

**Andrew Shue
Los Angeles
Galaxy**



Professional player & TV star

VICTORIA STATE PREMIER LEAGUE



ALTONA MAGIC

Commonwealth Bank & Schools

Bill Turner Cup

QUEENSLAND RESULTS

RD 3: Park Ridge 2 Mabel Park 1. **RD 4:** Mackay State 2-3 Holy Spirit Mackay 2-1, Bundaberg 3 Maryborough 1, Mackay State 2-3 Holy Spirit Mackay 2-1, Bundaberg 3 Maryborough 1, Caloundra 4 Mountain Creek 1, Nudgee College 3 Aspley 1, Stanthorpe State 2 St Josephs Toowoomba 1, Bremer 4 Runcom 0, The Gap 1 Marist Bros Rosalie 0, Park Ridge 1 Springwood 0, Alexandra Hills 2 Cavendish Road 0, Windaroo Valley 2 Helensvale 1. **RD 5:** Kirwan 3 Tully 1, St Josephs Stanthorpe 2 Stanthorpe State 1.

AREA FINALS

Area 6: Cessnock 1 Lambton 0.
Area 7: Lisarow 4 Glendale 0.
Area 8: Holy Cross 1 Gilroy College 0.
Area 9: Chris Bros Lewisham 3 Evans 1.
Area 10: Kirrawee 2 Hurstville Boys 1.
Area 11: Pat Bros Blacktown 1 Colo 0.
Area 12: Pat Bros Fairfield 1-5 Prairiewood 1-4.
Area 15: Koorlingal 3 Galen College 0.

UEFA CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND FIRST LEG

Skoko scores hat-trick for Hajduk!

In Tirana: FC Teuta (Albania) 1 Kosice (Slovakia) 4
Scorers: FC Teuta - Begeja (3), Kosice - Sovic (45, 66), Obsitnik (85), Kozlej (87)
Attendance: 3,000

In Sofia: Sofia (Bulgaria) 4. Inkaras-Grifas (Lithuania) 3.
Scorers: Slavia - Panayotov (31, 72), Totev (42), Pramatarov (85), Inkaras - Matchuliavitchus (9, 17, 76)
Attendance: 6,000

In Novi Sad: Becej (Yugoslavia) 0 Mura (Slovenia) 0
In Valkeakoski: Haka (Finland) 2 Flora Tallinn (Estonia) 2 (0-1)
Scorers: Haka - Sami Ristila (56, 80), Flora - Meelis Rooba (22) Liivo Leetmaa (90).
Attendance: 1,645

In Pori: FC Jazz (Finland) 3 Gotu Itrottarelag (Faroe Islands) 1 (1-0)
Scorers: FC Jazz - Suikkanen (38) Leivo-Jokimaki (49) Piracala (77), Gotu IF - Heinason (89)
Attendance: 3,190

In Krakow: Krakow (Poland) 9 Buzovna (Azerbaijan) 0 (2-0)
Scorers: Romuzga (37, 67), Wojnecki (65, 74), Zajac (70, 73), Yahaya (29), Shypovski (85 pen), Bartlomiej Jamroz (90).
Attendance: 5,000

In Tbilisi: Tbilisi (Georgia) 4 CS Grevenmacher (Luxembourg) 0 (1-0)
Scorers: Iashvili (36, 72), Gogichaishvili (78), Demetradze (87)
Attendance: 15,000

In Chisinau: Chisinau (Moldova) 0 Hajduk Split (Croatia) 4 (0-2)
Scorers: Skoko (19, 55, 70) Vucko (30).
Attendance: 7,000

In Yerevan: Pyunik Yerevan (Armenia) 3 HJK Helsinki (Finland) 1 (1-1).
Scorers: Pyunik - Avetisyan (22, 51) Mkhataryan (74) HJK - Lehtinen (43).
Attendance: 4,500

In Baku: Neftchi Baku (Azerbaijan) 2 Lokomotiv Sofia (Bulgaria) 1 (0-1).
Scorers: Neftchi - Rzaev (57), Vahkabzade (90) Lokomotiv - Borisov (7)

INAUGURAL SCHOOLS SERIES TIED

The inaugural Trans Tasman Schools series ended with honours even with both matches ending in exciting nil-all draws. The games were played on Wednesday and Thursday July 10 & 11.

The two-match series between Australia and New Zealand Secondary Boys teams was played at Valentine Park, Glenwood and Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda. Healthy crowds attended both games. Both of these venues are in Sydney.

New Zealand's team boasted several Kiwi Under 16 players and a few All White Under 19 stars. The Australian team was based on the successful South-East Asia touring team minus four of its players unavailable due to injury or overseas trials.

"This was the first of the annual series, with next year's matches due to be played in New Zealand," ASSSA National Secretary Chris James said.

"The Association appreciates the support and assistance provided by Soccer Australia. I would also like to especially thank Sutherland Shire Soccer Club for their generous assistance in staging the final match on Thursday evening."

In Vilnius: Vilnius (Lithuania) 2 Crisaders (Northern Ireland) 0 (0-0)
Scorers: Vencevicius (82), Arunas Pukelevicius (86)

In Esch-sur-Alzette: Jeunesse d'Esch (Luxembourg) 2 Legia Warsaw (Poland) 4 (2-3)
Scorers: Jeunesse d'Esch - Ganser (31), Theis (43) Warsaw - Pisz (4), Sokolowsky (39), St. nier (41, 60)
Attendance: 1,500

In Herzliya: Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 0 Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 1 (0-1)
Scorers: Georg Svetlagic (10)
Attendance: 6,000

In Jerusalem: Betar Jerusalem (Israel) 3 Floriana (Malta) 1 (3-0)
Scorers: Saloi (17), Harazi (21), Pistont (43) Floriana: Yeselji (55)
Attendance: 11,000

In Toftir: Sandoyar (Faroe Islands) 1 Apoel Nicosia (Cyprus) 5 (1-4)
Scorers: Sandoyar - Hentze (34, pen), Apoel - Soteriou (5, 26), Costas Fasoulitis (11), Alexi Alexandrou (36, 68)
Attendance: 297

In Powys: Newtown (Wales) 1 Skonto Riga (Latvia) 4 (0-1)
Scorers: Newtown - Brown (90) Skonto - Astafev (36, 71), Lovanyov (75, 80)
Attendance: 2,000

In Dublin: Bohemians (Ireland) 1 Dinamo Minsk (Belarus) 1 (1-0)
Scorers: Bohemians - Swan (1st min), Dinamo - Matovski (65)
Attendance: 3,000

In Portadown: Portadown (Northern Ireland) 0 Vojvodina (Yugoslavia) 1 (0-1)
Scorers: Cilinsek (27).
Attendance: 1,500

In Zagreb: Croatia Zagreb (Croatia) 4 Tirana (Albania) 0 (2-0).
Scorers: Sliskovic (25), Krznar (42), Cvitkovic (53, 79)
Attendance: 10,000

Town (Wales) 0 Dinaburg (Latvia) 0
Attendance: 2,500

St Patrick's Athletic (Ireland) 3 Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) 4 (halftime 1-3)
Scorers: St Patrick's - Glynn (44), O'Flaherty (64), McDonnell (74th)
Slovan - Nemeth (10, 40), Maixner (18), Karasy (77)
Attendance: 4,500



WORLD RESULTS

SWITZERLAND PREMIER

— July 17 —

Basle	0	Neuchatel	1
Lucerne	2	Lausanne	2
Servette	2	Grasshopper	2
St. Gallen	2	Sion	1
Young Boys	1	Lugano	0
Zurich	1	Aarau	1

TABLE

Neuchatel	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Zurich	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Lausanne	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
St. Gallen	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Young Boys	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Basle	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Lucerne	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Grasshopper	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Servette	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Sion	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Aarau	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Lugano	2	0	1	1	0	1	1

RUSSIA PREMIER

— July 18 —

Dynamo Moscow	1	Torpedo Moscow	0
Spartak Moscow	0	Zenit St Petersburg	2
U Ykaterinburg	2	Rotor Volgograd	4
Lada Togliatti	1	C Novorossiisk	1
T Kamyshin	0	Baltika Kaliningrad	2
K Naberezhnye Chelny	2	Rostselmash Rostov	7
K Sovetov Samara	2	Z Sochi	2
L Nizhny Novgorod	1	Alania Vladikavkaz	2
CSKA Moscow	1	Lokomotiv Moscow	3

TABLE

Alania Vladikavkaz	18	13	2	3	33	15	41
Rotor Volgograd	17	11	5	1	29	11	38
Dynamo Moscow	17	10	6	1	27	9	36
Spartak Moscow	17	10	4	3	31	14	34
CSKA Moscow	17	9	4	4	25	16	31
L Nizhny Novgorod	17	8	2	7	18	23	26
Zenit St Petersburg	17	7	4	6	18	15	25
Torpedo Moscow	17	6	7	4	20	20	25
Lokomotiv Moscow	17	6	7	4	20	14	25
Rostselmash Rostov	17	6	4	7	32	27	22
Baltika Kaliningrad	17	5	7	5	18	20	22
Krylya Sovetov Samara	17	5	6	6	12	14	21
Zhemchuzhina Sochi	17	5	4	8	16	28	19
C Novorossiisk	17	3	5	9	16	26	14
K Naberezhnye Chelny	18	3	3	12	15	32	12
Lada Togliatti	17	2	5	10	8	26	11
Tchik Kamyshin	17	1	7	9	8	18	10
U Yekaterinburg	17	1	5	11	15	33	8

USA MLS

— July 18 —

Dallas Burn	5	Los Angeles	2
Colorado	1	San Jose	2
Tampa Bay	3	Kansas City	2



Intertoto Cup

Group 1: VFB Stuttgart (Germany) 0 Standard Liege (Belgium) 2.

Group 2: Tofta Itrottarelag (Faroe Isles) 0 Werder Bremen (Germany) 2, ASK Linz (Austria) 2 Apollon FC Limassol (Cyprus) 0.

Group 3: FC Copenhagen (Denmark) 2 Austria Memphis 1.

Group 4: Conwy United (Wales) 1 SV Marc O'Polo Ried (Austria) 2, Charleroi (Belgium) 0 KS Zaglebie Lubin (Poland) 0.

Group 5: Nantes (France) 3 Heerenveen (Netherlands) 1, Kaunas (Lithuania) 1 Sligo Rovers (Ireland) 0.

Group 7: Basle (Switzerland) 5 Ataka-Aura Minsk (Belarus) 0.

Group 8: Kaučuk Opava (Czech Rep) 0 Munchen 1860 (Germany) 2, Kamaz Chelly (Russia) 2 Spartak Varna (Bulgaria) 2.

Group 9: Karlsruhe (Germany) 3 FC Cukaricki (Yugoslavia) 0, FC Univ Craiova (Romania) 2 FC Spartak Trnava (Slovakia) 1.

Group 10: JK Narva Trans (Estonia) 0 Lierse (Belgium) 3, Groningen (Netherlands) 1 Vasas (Hungary) 1.

Group 11: Strasbourg (France) 1 Ouralmash (Russia) 1, Kocaelispor (Turkey) 5 Hibernians FC (Malta) 3. **Group 12:** FC Kolkheti Poti (Georgia) 1 Quingamp (France) 3, FK Zemun (Yugoslavia) 3 FF Jaro (Finland) 2.

SWITZERLAND PREMIER

— July 20 —

Grasshopper	2	Lausanne	1
Neuchatel	1	Lugano	0
Servette	0	Zurich	0
Sion	1	Aarau	0
St. Gallen	2	Young Boys	1

TABLE

Neuchatel	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
St. Gallen	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Zurich	4	1	3	0	3	2	6
Grasshopper	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Lausanne	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Sion	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Basle	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Young Boys	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Lucerne	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Servette	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Aarau	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Lugano	3	0	1	2	0	2	1

USA-MLS

New England	2	D.C.	0
San Jose	4	Columbus	3
Dallas	2	Kansas City	1

Eastern Conference

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Tampa Bay	17	10	7	0	35	28 30
D.C.	19	7	10	1	34	34 22
NY-NJ	17	5	9	3	21	24 18
New England	17	4	8	5	23	26 17
Columbus	19	3	14	2	37	48 11

Western Conference

Los Angeles	16	10	4	2	33	24 32
San Jose	18	9	8	1	32	27 28
Dallas	21	8	9	4	33	32 28
Kansas City	21	8	11	2	37	40 26
Colorado	19	7	11	1	31	33 22

Andrew Shue, TV star of Melrose Place, is also a professional player with Los Angeles Galaxy. He is one of the ABSW posters in this edition on page 12.

His team is heading up the USA Major League soccer competition. They have the best record of all teams from the least number of matches.

However, Dallas Burn handed them a 5-2 thumping last week.

MAJOR LEAGUE REPORT

New England striker Darren Sawatzky took advantage of a depleted DC United to post both goals in his team's 2-0 win in the American Major Soccer League.

Although the first half was scoreless, it was costly for United, which lost top scorer Raul Diaz Arce when he was sent off and forward Steve Rammel to injury. Arce and Rammel have put away 25 of the team's 34 goals this season.

New England grabbed its first goal when Sawatzky's shot from just inside the penalty area deflected off United defender Jeff Agoos, bouncing up and over goalie Mark Simpson.

Sawatzky scored his second of the season when he ran onto Paul Keegan's pass and dribbled 30 metres, beating defender John Maessner and slipping the ball past Simpson as the keeper came off his line.

The win was New England's fourth in a row, but first at home since June 15.

In Columbus, Ohio, Paul Bravo scored two goals, including the winner in the 80th minute, as San Jose Clash defeated Columbus 4-3.

Bravo's winning goal for the Clash came from a pass by U.S. international Eric Wynalda. It was the seventh straight game in which Columbus has conceded a goal in the last 20 minutes.

At Kansas City, Missouri, Gerrell Elliott scored in the 75th minute to give Dallas Burn a 2-1 victory over Kansas City Wiz in a game delayed by rain and lightning.

Dallas' Jason Kreis opened the scoring in the 13th minute, just moments before referee Brian Hall suspended play for 55 minutes because of rain and lightning. Preki scored the leveller from a 22nd minute penalty kick.

WORLD STORIES

President promotes Maradona

In his latest about-turn, Diego Maradona now says he wants to play for Argentina again to ensure the country qualifies for the 1998 World Cup finals.

Maradona, 35, said he had an "attack of Argentina-itis" while watching the national team scrape to a lucky goalless draw against Peru in Lima a week last Sunday.

The draw left Argentina with only one victory in three games after beating Bolivia 3-1 at home and losing 2-0 away to unfancied Ecuador.

"Now, I'm dying to play for my country again. The people are asking for me and that makes me proud," Maradona said in an

interview with the sports daily Ole.

Maradona's comments are likely to further pressure beleaguered national coach Daniel Passarella.

His wish for yet another comeback also received the blessing of President Carlos Menem who told reporters Maradona, "is just what the team is lacking."

"A flick, a move and a well-placed pass from Maradona is half a goal," said Menem, a keen soccer fan.

Only last week, Maradona said he would never play for Argentina again under Passarella, saying the coach was "mentally slower than a lame and fractured tortoise."



Diego Maradona: Has had an attack of "Argentina-itis."

President arrested in Colombia

Colombian police have arrested the president and majority shareholder of Independiente Santa Fe, one of the South American country's most important soccer teams.

The prosecutor-general's office announced in a statement it had issued a warrant for the arrest of Cesar Villegas Arciniegas after finding enough evidence to press criminal charges against him for allegedly laundering drug money.

The office said police arrested the Santa Fe chief at one of his offices in downtown Bogota.

Villegas, who became the team's president two months ago, allegedly laundered money for the Cali cartel, one of the most powerful drug organisations in the world.

Dutchman goes to Bundesliga

Schalke 04, of the German Bundesliga, have signed Dutch international Johan de Kock for \$A2.5 million.

He was formerly with Roda Kerkrade and is 31 years old.

Holland played him four times at the recently completed Euro 96.

Manchester United were said to be interested in him but Schalke beat them to the signing.

THREAT TO WOMEN'S GAMES PARTICIPATION

Women's participation in the 2000 Olympics could be dramatically reduced if the Australian Olympic Committee imposed a limit of 10,000 athletes and officials attending the Sydney Games.

Womensport Australia said last week, recent AOC comments that there should be a limit of athletes and officials at the 2000 Games would have serious repercussions for women's sport.

The group's executive officer Heather Reid said some of the suggested cuts included beach volleyball and softball, two sports in which Australian women ranked among the world's best.

The Olympic body's comments came at a time when there was a strong international push for the inclusion of women's water polo, weightlifting, pole vault, hammer throw and 1,500m freestyle in the Olympics, Reid said.

Australia is world champion in women's water polo, is ranked highly in weightlifting and Emma George holds the world pole vault record, and it would be in the country's best interest to include the events in the 2000 program, Reid said in a statement.



Atlanta 1996

"Rather than cutting complete sporting competitions from its 2000 program, the AOC should look to alternatives such as tightening up qualifying times and eligibility requirements," Reid said.

"A greater balance within team events would also help to reduce the total number of athletes, coaches and managers."

"For example, men's soccer allows a greater number of finalists and players in each team than women's soccer."

"If both were limited to 18 players and eight finalists in the respective competitions, it would result in a reduction of at least 150 people."

Reid said women had traditionally had fewer opportunities to compete internationally and the inequity was slowly being addressed.

"Let's not regress at Sydney," she said.

France faces player exodus

France ought to be looking forward with optimism to the 1996/97 soccer season — just two years before it hosts the World Cup finals.

Instead, an exodus of top players during the summer break has left France looking much less like one of the top five leagues in Europe and has cast a cloud over the unprecedented exploits of last season.

When national coach Aime Jacquet named his 22-man squad for the European championship finals in mid-May, four of his players were with foreign clubs — the Italian-based Christian Karembeu, Marcel Desailly, Didier Deschamps and Jocelyn Angloma.

But soon, another nine members of France's Euro 96 squad followed their team-mates across the country's borders.

Juventus bagged Zinedine Zidane while his Bordeaux club mate Christophe Dugarry was snapped up by AC Milan. Internazionale signed Youri Djorkaeff from Paris St Germain, Laurent Blanc went to Barcelona and Bixente Lizarazu became the first foreigner to join Athletic Bilbao.

Djorkaeff had just helped PSG win the European Cup Winners' Cup, only France's second continental club trophy. Zidane, Dugarry and Lizarazu had all played for surprise UEFA Cup finalists Bordeaux and Blanc had helped little Auxerre to the French double.

Jacquet's team was unbeaten and playing well going into the Euro 96, but its failure to go the distance brought French football followers back down to earth with a bump. With the season starting on August 10 without its major stars — including the English-based Eric Cantona and David Ginola — can prevent such a loss of talent in the future?

The World Cup host has

never before been faced with the age-old problem suffered by the likes of Argentina and Yugoslavia, who have more than half their national team players operating far from home.

The French league, looking for answers, hopes to develop its marketing, with a subsidiary of the Walt Disney corporation guaranteeing revenue of \$A4.26 million from now until 2001. Critics point their fingers at the giant television company Canal Plus that has exclusive rights to first division matches, either itself or through its satellite subsidiary.

Guy Roux, trainer of champions and French Cup winners Auxerre, believes it should be "Canal even more" with the television companies paying greater sums for the right to show football.

"All our neighbours get more," Roux told the sports weekly France Football recently.

"Before Bosman, you could manage with less money than the others because the clubs, however rich, could not line up more than three foreigners," Roux said.

"That's no longer the case today. So we must ask TV for more money."

But the reasons France lags behind Italy, England, Spain and Germany in revenue and player salaries are numerous and complex.

They include a higher tax burden on club wages, smaller average crowds and less sophisticated advertising and marketing as well as the new post-Bosman transfer regulations.

Roux's own international midfielder Corentin Martins, who has just been transferred to Deportivo La Coruna of Spain, is said to be on a salary eight times bigger than the one he earned at his provincial French club.

Bordeaux sign tenth new player

UEFA Cup Finalists, Bordeaux have agreed terms with Argentine international Claudio Biaggio, and the San Lorenzo striker is expected to sign for \$A2 million soon.

Biaggio, capped once against Venezuela in December, has scored 46 goals in the last three seasons and was top scorer in the first of Argentina's two annual championships last year, which San Lorenzo won.

The 29-year-old will be the 10th pre-season signing by Bordeaux.

The French team sold French Euro 96 trio Zinedine Zidane, Christophe Dugarry and Bixente Lizarazu to leading Italian and Spanish sides after reaching the UEFA Cup final in May.

Promoted Olympique Marseille looks set to sign Germany's Euro 96 goalkeeper Andreas Koepke and Parma's Italian defender Lorenzo Minotti this weekend.

Koepke, seeking to leave relegated Eintracht Frankfurt, had been destined for Barcelona until his transfer deal fell through earlier this month.



Dugarry: Part of the French exodus.

Croatian Corner

By John Viskovich

NSW representative and Sydney United (or West Sydney Crow in 1999) player David Zdrilic is trialling in Croatia with Hajduk Split. So far the news from the "Poljud" is good and he should sign a contract soon.

Another Australian player on trial is Vinko Buljbasic of the Ericsson Cup Winners Melbourne Knights. U.K. reporter Roy Hay hit the nail right on the head when he said "Croatian-Australians have signed for clubs in their parents homeland with the clear intention of using that as a stepping stone to the top leagues... Croatia is a great show window for talent..." Zdrilic and Buljbasic surely will benefit from playing in Europe where foreign clubs will be able to follow them much easier than in a country as far away as Australia.

Hajduk Split have named 23 year old right back Darko Butorovic (near right) as captain for next season. His club beat Slovenian club Belinac 1:0 with a goal from Liberian Ace Mass Sarr. This was also followed by a 1:0 win over Croatia Zagreb. The former North Geelong midfielder and Olyroo Josip Skoko is now a starter with the club and wears the number 10 left vacant by Asanovic. The club's good fortune is also due to Macedonian central midfielder Goce Sedloski who is proving to be a good buy.

Manchester United have moved in and are having talks with Igor Stimac (Derby) and Slaven Bilic (West Ham) and so far the prospect of

signing the two for next season look rather good. Both defenders are perfect for English football as they are strong on the ball and very hard tacklers.

Zvone Boban who is also limited with the club has waved off the offer and will honor his contract with AC Milan which runs to 1999. Also with the Bosman case ruling Boban can play regularly for Milan when fit.

Goran Vlaovic although keen to sign for Man United can't because Napoli and Valencia both have taken him to court as he allegedly signed for both clubs. To make things worse for him Fiorentina also say a verbal agreement was made for him to go to Florence. He has been suspended by UEFA because of these misdemeanors.

Alfosa Asanovic Croatia's Euro 96 star is trying to do the same as Vlaovic and break a contract he signed. Before Euro 96 Asanovic signed for Derby County but his good performance in England has created plenty of interest for his services. Bayern is the club who is willing to sign him and at 30 years of age who can blame Asanovic for doing anything to land this major contract with one of Europe's elite clubs. Bayern have also offered him a 3 year contract while Derby's is only a 2 year one.

Former World Cup coach Ivica Osim is pleading with Croatia Zagreb coach Otto Baril to release Croatia's keeper Drzen Ladic (far right) so he can join Strum Graz in Austria. Osim

one of Europe's respected coaches is offering the keeper a two year contract and at 33 years of age, Ladic should accept his chance at playing overseas as he has been very loyal to the club by staying put for 10 years.

Goran Vucevic is back with Barcelona and will hope new coach Bobby Robson will give him a chance at first team football. 23 year old Vucevic is in top form and looks good for the new season.



Croatia's team shirt was the most sold strip at Euro 96 with many non Croatian's finding Croatia's jersey very stylish. Not suprisingly it was the Japanese who liked it the most.

Alen Boksic has been joined by Australian and former Marconi junior Christian Vieri from

Atalanta. Vieri is also now an Italian U21 player.

Mark Viduka Australia's Olympian could be leaving Croatia Zagreb. It seems Viduka is unhappy at the club and with a good show at the Olympics could secure a responsible new contract with another European club.

Real Madrid have finally signed Montenegrin Pedrag Midatovic from Valencia. A long time friend of Davor Suker the duo hope to reignite the fire which brought them the 1987 World Youth Championships.

For more Croatian Sports news and a good laugh tune into CRO 2000 with legendary host Ante Grabovac. The program is broadcast in English at 8.50pm Wednesdays on Sydney's 98.5 FM radio. Don't miss it!





Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sunshine GX	22	15	3	4	34	22	48
Altona Gate	22	15	1	6	52	23	46
Heidelberg Utd	22	14	4	4	52	25	46
Bentleigh Green	22	14	4	4	43	22	46
Thomastown Zeb.	22	12	5	5	42	28	41
Green Gully	22	9	9	4	37	28	36
Port Melbourne	22	9	8	5	50	36	35
Bulleen	22	7	7	8	30	35	28
North Geelong	22	7	5	10	25	38	26
Box Hill Inter	22	5	5	12	25	45	20
St Albans	22	4	3	15	24	44	15
Albion	22	3	5	14	19	39	14
Fawkner	22	3	5	14	19	42	14
Springvale City	22	3	4	15	24	49	13

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	21	15	0	6	63	39	45
Thomastown	21	13	4	4	48	20	43
Bulleen	22	13	2	17	54	29	41
Port Melbourne	22	12	5	5	44	25	41
Bentleigh Green	20	11	3	6	50	39	36
Sunshine G.X.	21	8	9	4	38	33	33
Green Gully	21	9	5	7	43	34	32
Box Hill Inter	21	7	5	9	36	41	26
Springvale City	22	6	7	9	47	44	25
Fawkner	21	7	4	10	33	48	25
Altona Gate	21	7	3	11	41	48	24
Albion	22	6	2	14	35	69	20
St Albans	21	3	7	11	21	39	16
North Geelong	22	3	2	17	22	67	11

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sp White Eagles	18	12	3	3	39	17	39
Preston Lions	18	10	6	2	30	12	36
West Suburbs	18	10	5	3	23	11	35
Kings City	18	8	8	2	24	17	32
Lalor Utd	18	8	5	5	43	32	29
Richmond	17	7	8	2	29	20	29
C'don City Dons	18	7	6	5	35	21	27
Moorabbin City	17	6	4	7	20	23	22
Werribee City	18	6	3	9	25	24	21
Westgate	18	5	5	8	31	33	20
Don'ster Rovers	18	4	8	6	22	26	20
Northcote City	17	3	5	9	15	30	14
Broadmeadows	17	3	2	12	19	46	11
Glen Eira City	18	0	2	16	10	53	2

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Preston	15	12	1	2	41	13	37
Werribee City	17	11	3	3	33	21	36
Moorabbin City	16	10	3	3	43	18	33
Croydon City	17	10	2	5	41	25	32
Don'ster Rovers	18	10	1	7	40	29	31
Kings City	18	8	3	7	44	31	27
Richmond	14	8	3	3	25	14	27
Lalor United	17	7	1	9	40	30	22
Sp White Eagles	17	7	1	9	43	37	22
West Suburbs	15	5	2	8	31	38	17
Northcote City	16	5	1	10	16	49	16
Westgate	16	4	0	12	14	47	12
Glen Eira City	18	3	2	13	21	55	11
Broadmeadows	14	2	1	11	12	37	7

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westvale	18	14	2	2	70	20	41
Altona East	18	11	5	2	38	21	38
Sth Dandenong	18	11	3	4	44	24	36
Altona City	18	9	3	6	33	18	30
Waverley City	18	8	4	6	37	38	28
Ess Brun Royals	18	6	7	5	18	18	25
Frankston Pines	18	5	7	6	23	25	22
Knox City	18	5	7	6	23	31	22
East Richmond	17	6	3	8	29	26	21
Regent Bulla	18	4	7	7	17	31	19
Oakland	18	3	7	8	19	46	16
Nunawading City	18	3	6	9	18	44	15

Bell Park	17	3	4	10	17	28	13
Mooroolbark	18	3	3	12	23	41	12

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston Pines	17	14	1	2	40	14	43
Ess Brun Royals	18	11	2	5	48	18	35
Waverley City	17	11	0	6	54	31	33
Altona City	17	11	0	6	43	27	33
East Richmond	17	6	6	5	29	25	24
Mooroolbark	17	6	6	5	31	33	24
Regent Bulla	17	8	0	9	34	45	24
Oakland	18	7	1	10	46	37	22
Westvale	18	7	4	7	30	29	22
Altona East	18	6	4	8	32	35	22
Knox City	18	6	4	8	34	38	22
Sth Dandenong	18	5	2	11	32	50	17
Nunawading City	17	4	2	11	26	45	14
Bell Park	17	2	4	11	23	75	10

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston	18	15	0	3	64	21	45
Ringwood City	17	10	5	2	43	14	35
Sth Springvale	17	11	1	5	46	24	34
Cranbourne	18	10	3	5	32	20	33
Dia Valley Utd	17	10	1	6	24	23	31
Fitzroy City	16	7	4	5	29	22	25
Sth Werribee	17	6	6	5	38	24	24
Sth Caulfield	18	8	2	8	36	38	23
Pascoe Vale	17	6	4	7	21	24	22
Melb City	18	4	5	9	25	33	17
Banyule	18	4	5	9	22	40	17
Keilor Eagles	18	3	6	9	15	27	15
Chelsea	18	3	3	12	27	76	12
Clifton Hill	17	1	3	13	12	48	6

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cranbourne	18	14	3	1	74	11	45
Ringwood City	17	14	1	2	49	15	43
Keilor Eagles	17	12	3	2	47	16	39
Sth Springvale	16	10	2	4	43	14	32
Dia Valley Utd	17	9	2	6	44	30	29
Fitzroy City	17	8	5	4	38	30	29
Frankston	18	7	4	7	60	34	25
Melb City	17	6	4	7	31	29	22
Pascoe Vale	17	7	1	9	32	40	22
Sth Werribee	16	6	3	7	33	38	21
Banyule	17	4	2	11	34	39	14
Sth Caulfield	18	3	5	10	21	36	11
Chelsea	18	2	0	16	22	74	6
Clifton Hill	17	0	1	16	6	108	1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Yarraville	17	12	3	2	41	18	39
Geelong	18	10	6	2	39	23	36
Sun Heights	18	11	2	5	39	19	35
Nth Coburg Utd	18	11	2	5	46	29	39
Stonnington	18	10	2	6	34	22	32
Lalor	17	8	4	5	33	23	28
Monbulk	18	6	7	5	20	21	25
Langwarrin	18	6	5	7	40	31	23
Sunbury Utd	18	6	5	7	21	26	23
Seaford Utd	18	6	1	11	22	35	19
Moreland City	18	5	3	10	25	36	18
Williamstown	18	4	5	9	23	31	17
Corio	18	4	3	11	20	41	15
Sandr City	18	1	2	15	12	50	5

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	18	15	2	1	68	14	47
Sunbury Utd	18	12	2	4	28	17	38
Sun Heights	17	11	4	2	47	10	37
Nth Coburg Utd	17	10	2	5	51	33	32
Stonnington	17	10	2	5	37	23	32
Lalor	16	7	6	3	32	25	27
Yarraville	16	7	4	5	36	24	25
Seaford Utd	18	6	6	6	40	30	24
Moreland City	18	5	5	8	21	33	20
Monbulk	17	5	2	10	28	32	17
Geelong	18	4	4	10	20	53	16
Corio	18	3	5	10	21	40	14

San'ham City	18	2	1	15	17	65	7
Williamstown	18	1	3	14	17	64	6

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melton	16	10	4	2	33	14	34
Keysborough	16	11	1	4	30	14	34
Geel Rangers	16	10	3	3	42	18	33
Sth Wantirna	15	9	2	4	38	19	29
Sp'vale Condors	15	8	6	1	28	19	27
Knox Park	16	7	3	6	32	27	24
Nth Sunshine	16	7	3	6	30	25	24
Mornington	15	6	2	7	19	31	20
Mitcham Utd	15	6	1	8	25	26	19
Doveton	16	4	5	7	20	27	17
Old Scotch Haw	16	4	3	9	18	21	15
Glenroy	16	3	5	8	24	34	14
Ballarat	16	3	3	10	13	33	12
Heidelberg City	16	1	1	14	8	52	4

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Park	16	9	5	2	41	17	32
Mitcham Utd	14	8	3	3	44	27	27
Mornington	15	8	3	4	24	23	27
Melton	16	8	2	6	27	22	26
Glenroy	15	7	3	5	39	26	24
Nth Sunshine	15	7	3	5	23	25	24
Sp'vale Condors	14	8	2	4	41	23	23
Geel Rangers	16	6	2	8	25	32	20
Ballarat	14	6	1	7	26	28	19
Sth Wantirna	14	4	5	5	20	23	17
Keysborough	15	4	2	9	29	36	14
Heidelberg City	15	3	4	8	15	39	13
Old Scotch Haw	15	2	6	7	26	36	12
Doveton	14	2	3	9	16	39	9

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
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TACKLE DIABETES



PREMIER LEAGUE — ROUND 23 SUNDAY, 28TH JULY, 1996

Bentleigh Greens	v	Pt Melbourne Sharks
Bulleen Lions	v	Nth Geelong Warriors
St Albans Saints	v	Albion Redsox
Thomastown Zebras	v	Springvale City Vales
Box Hill Inter	v	Heidelberg United
Green Gully Cavaliers	v	Fawkner Blues
Sunshine Georgies	v	Altona Magic

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SUNDAY, 28TH JULY — ROUND 19

S'Vale White Eagles	v	Doncaster Rovers
Preston Lions	v	Northcote City
Richmond	v	Western Suburbs
Werribee City	v	Moorabbin City
Westgate	v	Kingston City
Glen Eira City	v	Lalor Utd
Br'meadows City	v	Croydon City

DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY, 27TH JULY 1996

Mooroolbark	v	Altona City
Westvale	v	Sth Dandenong
Regent Bulla	v	Oakleigh
Nunawading City	v	Waverley City
Knox City	v	East Richmond
Altona East	v	Ess. Bruns. Royals
Bell Park	v	Frankston Pines

DIVISION THREE

Ringswood City	v	Sth Werribee
Sth Springvale	v	Grandboume
Banyule City	v	Frankston
Keilor Eagles	v	Fitzroy City
Clifton Hill	v	Diamond Valley Utd
Pascoe Vale	v	Sth Caulfield
Chelsea	v	Melbourne City

DIVISION FOUR

Seaford Utd	v	Nth Coburg Utd
Moreland City	v	Geelong
Stonnington City	v	Williamstown
Lalor	v	Sunshine Heights
Monbulk	v	Sunbury Utd
Langwarrin	v	Sandringham City
Corio	v	Yarraville

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SATURDAY, 27TH JULY 1996 — ROUND 17

Mornington	v	S'Vale Condors
Sth Wantima	v	Melton
Heidelberg City	v	Geelong Rangers
Glenroy	v	Old Scotch/Hawt
Mitcham Utd	v	Knox Park (Terrara Park)
Nth Sunshine	v	Doveton
Keysborough	v	Ballarat

DIVISION TWO

Berwick City	v	Meadow Park
Lyndale Utd	v	Endeavour Utd
South Yarra	v	Croxton
Hampton Park Utd	v	Nth Glenroy
Braeside Utd	v	Hoppers Crossing
Brunswick City	v	Brandon Park
East Nun Eagles	v	Dandenong

DIVISION THREE — METRO

SATURDAY, 27TH JULY 1996 — ROUND 15

Riversdale	v	T'stowe Eagles
Ringwood Rovers	v	Elwood City
Parkmore	v	Uni Melb Blues
Br4'meadows Utd	v	Newb/Yallourn
Melb Uni Rangers	v	Ashburton
Keilor Utd	vg	Monash Uni

SOUTH/EAST/CENTRAL SUNDAY, 28TH JULY 1996

Noble Park	v	Flem. Falcons
Oakleigh Utd	v	Thornbury
Nth Caulfield	v	Wav. Wanderers
East Kew	v	Ivanhoe Utd
Endeavour Hills	v	Cam Gr Old Boys
Yarra Utd	v	Collingwood City

NORTH/WEST

Sunshine Park	v	Sydenham Park
Northern Utd	v	Upfield
Nth Reservoir	v	West Preston
Keon Park	v	Whittlesea Utd
Mil Park	v	Darebin Utd
Latrobe Uni	v	Diamond Valley

SPRINGVALE 1 BOX HILL 1 BY D TUFFNELL

The Springvale City Vales are no closer to avoiding the drop to Division One after their 1-1 draw with fellow relegation candidates Box Hill Inter on Friday night.

Inter though, in a less desperate situation than their opponents, should have taken the three points.

Robert Marcen gave the visitors a 20th minute lead when he nodded in Alan Roodhouse's far-post cross.

The Vales wiped out the lead in seven minutes with Joseph Campagna knocking in David Grella's measured pass. Springvale threatened briefly in the second period with the dangerous Campagna testing Inter 'keeper Sean Keogh on more than one occasion.

Box Hill substitute Frank Chirico could have been the hero but wasted two glorious chances just after coming on. He pounced on a Vince Grella mistake but could only direct his shot within the range of Steve Christov. Chirico then robbed Roddy Vargas shortly after but his time missed the target completely with only Christov to beat. Inter were happy with a point but the situation for the Vales looks bleak. Games against Thomastown, St. Albans, Bentleigh and Port Melbourne could prove to be too much for them.

VALES: Christov, Bettieri, Carlos (A. Vargas), Razzi, V. Grella, Campagna, Impellizzeri, D. Grella, Lancaster, P. Grella (Dell 'Aquila), R. Vargas.

INTER: Keogh, Tartaglia, Frezzini (Chirico), Lennon, Dal Ben, Roodhouse, Pansino, Marcen, Tsakiris, Castro, Zilic.

REFEREE: Nestor Zachariadis.

VOTES: 3 — Campagna (Vales); 2 — Lennon (Inter); 1 — Zilic (Inter).

NTH GEELONG 0 BENTLEIGH 0 BY Z MILENKOVSKI

North Geelong Warriors and Bentleigh Greens played out a hard fought 0-0 draw at Elcho Park on Sunday.

The result put Bentleigh into fourth position and for now out of contention for the double chance.

The match was marred by six cautions and in the 36th minute a tussle between Robert Cosic and Andy Charalambous led to a sending off for the latter.

The games best chance came in the second half when a Gerry McDonagh cross found Nick Rossios who struck the crossbar with

his effort.

Star midfielder come striker John Didulica has officially signed for A League team Sydney United.

WARRIORS: Joey Didulica, Bot, O'Sullivan, Medved, cosic, Saric (Trupkovic), Deak, Dimovski, Cervinski, Skoko, Rajher (Sobevski).

GREENS: Jones, Drakos, Bakker, Constantinou, Theoharous, Kotsovolos, Charalambous (Sent off), Kalimeris, McDonagh (Peppetas), Crivari, Rossios.

REFEREE: Vince Celestino.

VOTES: 3 — Cosic (Warriors); 2 — Rossios (Greens); 1 — Deak (Warriors).

PT MELB 3 ST ALBANS 1 BY D TUFFNELL

In a crucial match for both teams, the Port Melbourne Sharks triumphed over the St Albans Saints with a 3-1 win.

They had to wait until late in the game however to make sure of the three points with the relegation threatened Saints pushing for an equaliser.

The Sharks had a commanding two goal lead within twenty minutes with Alex Duric heading in twice from crosses from Alex Efsthathiou and John Dimitrellos respectively.

Idriz Pelja pulled one goal back for the Saints in the 26th minute with a neat header from Paul Magdic's corner.

Both sides had a catalogue of chances in the second half, Nick Papadopoulos came close when he hit the bar with a close range header.

Tom Pondeljak and Pelja pushed the Sharks defence for the majority of the second half but it was the home side who grabbed a late goal.

Efstathiou blasted a free kick into the box where it deflected out to the waiting Clayton Bell who shot smartly beyond Marijan Vunderl.

SHARKS: Kouritis, Dimitrellos (Livanopoulos), Kyriakopoulos, Hastie, Bell, Efsthathiou, Papadopoulos, Mitroulas (Tsaltas), Gotis, Duric, Latinopoulos.

SAINTS: Vunderl, Colina, Magdic (Markovac), Gagula, Pondeljak, Razov, Lewis, Jolic, Greganovic, Pelja, Movric.

REFEREE: Gerry Connolly.

VOTES: 3 — Pelja (Saints); 2 — Latinopoulos (Sharks); 1 — Pondeljak (Saints).

FAWKNER 0 SUNSHINE 1 BY NICHOLAS TZAFERIS

The Sunshine Georgies reclaimed top spot on the Victorian Premier League table after winning 1-0 over Fawkner in a game that began and ended in a most sensational manner.

Officials of both sides were irate that referee Bruno D'Anello allowed the reserves game to take place on the main ground which needed as much protection as possible for the main event.

The main event lived up to all expectations on an excessively muddy pitch with the Georgies winning their fifth straight game over the Blues.

Juan Nilo scored the winner with an 83rd minute penalty awarded by referee Jim Markovski after Damian Beattie needlessly brought down Sunshine's Arthur Tsirtsakis.

Referee Markovski was also among the action in sending off Sunshine's Marc Aretis in the first half and then Blues pair Tony Schipano and Eddie Kuzman, the latter for striking out at Anthony Cassar.

Fawkner can blame only themselves for the defeat after missing a bundle of chances throughout the game. Their last chance, an 89th minute Alex Stevanovic shot, was cleared off the line by the very impressive Ilija Dragicovic.

BLUES: Beattie, Vasiliadis (Stevanovic), Tramontana, Hordignon (De Santis), Schipano (sent off), Branov, Eothwell, Minichiello, Kuzman (sent off), Ferla, Stergiopoulos.

GEORGIES: Wardle, Kanesoulis, Cassar, Dragicovic, Aretis (sent off), Nilo, Tsirtsakis, De La Plaza, Tountas (Stojanovski), De Bono, Vassallo.

REFEREE: Jim Markovski.

VOTES: 3 — Kanesoulis (Georgies); 2 — Dragicovic (Georgies); 1 — Bordignon (Blues).

ALBION 1 THOMASTOWN 2 BY JOHN RIGAS

Thomastown Zebras, fighting to stay in the top five, stole the maximum points against Albion Fedsox after substitute Nick Cuculevski headed a winner three minutes into injury time. Thomastown had the greater possession in the first half and it came as no surprise when Davide Iacovitti crossed the ball to Joe Tricarico who found the back of the net from close range in the 21st minute.

There was no urgency in the Albion side in the opening stanza and a change was obvious at half time. Coach Gus McLeod brought on Carlos Keire who replaced Mark Wilson.

Retre supplied the cross for Justin Geri who headed the ball past Mauro Raponi in a packed penalty area in the 85th minute. The contest seemed to be heading for a draw but substitutes Cuculevski and new Romanian signing Marian Craciu had other ideas when they combined to score the winner.

RED SOX: Brian, Gupinar (Scrobogna), Grimaud,

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 22 RESULTS

Springvale City Vales 1 (Campagna) — Box Hill Inter 1 (Marcen)	Altona Magic 5 (Becvinovski 3, Georgopoulos, Cvetkovski) — Bulleen Lions 0
Fawkner Blues 0 — Sunshine Georgies 1 (Nilo)	Heidelberg United 1 (Boutsianis) — Green Gully Cavaliers 3 (Waddell, Babic, og)
Albion Redsox 1 (Geri) — Thomastown Zebras 2 (Tricarico, Cuculevski)	Port Melbourne Sharks 3 (Duric 2, Bell) — St Albans Saints 1 (Pella)
North Geelong Warriors 0 — Bentleigh Greens 0	

LEADING GOALSCORERS

22 Despotovski (Heidelberg)
17 Becvinovski (Altona)
15 Zinni (Thomastown)
13 Nilo (Sunshine)

PASCOE VALE SPORTS SCENE

TOP VOTES

25 — Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
18 — Cassar (Sunshine)
Cosic (North Geelong)
17 — Ngata (Thomastown)
Rusmir (Altona)
16 — Bell (Port Melbourne)
15 — Georgiadis (Heidelberg)
Becvinovski (Altona)

Lucchini, Wilson (Retre), Donnelly, Collins, L. Osman, Patsaman (Carter), McMinimee, Geri.

ZEBRAS: Raponi, Banini (Craciu), Angelovski, Karic, Della Rocca, Tricarico, Lazarevski (Bichler), Mazzini, Iacovitti, Boschini (Cuculevski), Ngata.

REFEREE: Andrew Stacey.
VOTES: 3 — Grimaud (Redsox); 2 — Raponi (Zebras); 1 — Lucchesi.

ALTONA 5 BULEEN 0 BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

Sash Becvinovski's second hat trick in three matches sparked the Altona Magic to a devastating 5-0 victory over the Bulleen Lions on Sunday.

A succession of passes resulted in Becvinovski's first goal after twelve minutes, before Savva Rusmir brilliantly headed to the feet of Nick Georgopoulos who made no mistake in the 27th minute. Bulleen's woes continued with George Slifkas given his marching orders for chesting referee Stephen McEwan after receiving a caution.

Two minutes after half time, Becvinovski punished a loose clearance, before putting away Rusmir's third goal-providing pass, fifteen minutes later.

Magic substitute Zoran Cvetkovski, rounded off the scoring in the 76th minute, just clearing the goal line after the shot was partly smothered by Jeff Olver.

MAGIC: McGrath, Tasevski, Alanasovski, Runje (Bogoevski), Micevski, Markovski, Rusmir (Cvetkovski), Georgopoulos, Becvinovski (Petrevski), Velkovski, Petrov.

LIONS: Olver, Valentic,

Stojcevski, Tsiakos, Slifkas (sent off), Sonsini (Everetts), McAleer, White (Di Iorio), Grbac (Barbieri), Liparoti, Catalano.

REFEREE: Stephen McEwan.
VOTES: 3 — Rusmir, 2 — Becvinovski; 1 — Georgopoulos.

HEIDELBERG 1 GREEN GULLY 3 BY G KOUKERIS

On the match of the day, the game between Heidelberg United and Green Gully Cavaliers proved to be the most interesting match of the round, and so it was.

The game provided excellent opportunities in the first half. In the 20th minute, Bobby Despotovski supplied an excellent volley to Con Boutsianis which enabled him to open the scoring. It was not long before the Cavaliers equalised. In the 35th minute, John Waddell produced a powerful strike from 35 metres, only too see goalkeeper Glenn Clarke miss-judge the path of the ball, letting it slip through his hands and roll over the line.

In the second — stanza it was all Green Gully, as they produced excellent football. Vlad Babic scored in the 73rd minute and an own goal in the 81st minute put the result out of Heidelberg's reach.

UNITED: Clarke, Koutos, Tsoumerkas, Fak, Svigos, Tyrikos, Vlahos, Despotovski (Karasavidis), Boutsianis, Pasishis (Alexiou).

CAVALIERS: Vella, Spiteri, Douglas, Cimino, Waddell, Brown (Chetcuti), Neceski, Markovski, Crodden, Suric, Babic (Stojcevski).

REFEREE: Jurgen Annus.

VOTES: 3 — Babic; 2 — Cimino; 1 — Tyrikos.

NEXT WEEKS FIXTURES

SUNDAY JULY 28

Bentleigh Greens	v	Port Melb Sharks
Bulleen Lions	v	Nth Geelong Warriors
St Albans Saints	v	Albion Redsox
Thomastown Zebras	v	Springvale City Vales
Box Hill Inter	v	Heidelberg United
Green Gully Cavaliers	v	Fawkner Blues
Sunshine Georgies	v	Altona Magic



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CARLTON STEALS THE SHOW

BY GREG BLAKE

AFL club Carlton has now officially announced its intention of joining Collingwood in the Ericsson Cup in 1997/98 and already the club's grand plans include a commitment of some \$2 million to the soccer venture, about double the current working budget of even the biggest and best of the Ericsson Cup clubs.



Alan Davidson: Lined-up to coach Carlton.

The Blues are talking about West Ham's Robbie Slater and QPR's Mark Hateley as marquee players and Socceroo great Alan Davidson as coach.

Carlton's track record — including an AFL record 16 premierships — suggests that whatever happens with the soccer it won't be failure for the want of professionalism

and big corporate bucks. And they will approach the venture on a grand scale.

I noted a letter-writer in last week's ABSW suggesting that the inclusion of the likes of Carlton will "lift the measuring stick for success."

"The stakes are suddenly higher and standards of professionalism will now be in the elite category," says the correspondent.

The letter quite rightly points out that this will shake up the soccer community.

Thomastown Zebras president Peter Ballassone as he reacted to the magnitude of the Carlton bid.

He was quoted as urging the four main Italian clubs in Victoria's Premier League — Thomastown Zebras, Fawkner, Bulleen and Box



Hill — was "the only way to go."

"Unless we break down the little empires and get together the whole lot, we have no other hope," Ballassone apparently said.

My problem with this is that we've heard all the empty rhetoric on this subject on a fairly frequent basis for a decade or more.

When once it might have been a plausible plan to bring together the Italian big-guns of Victoria to form a super club, the vision and foresight was lacking, the advice was ignored and now those Italian teams must share a frightfully clouded future.

Unfortunately as in many areas of our domestic soccer the concern of Ballassone is reactive rather than proactive.

For almost certainly the time for action has been missed and the likes of Zebras, Fawkner and Box Hill have now begun a long, slow and probably painful death march.

Even if Ballassone's comments are considered by the clubs it will be a case of too little, too late.

Now the chickens are coming home to roost in the form of Carlton's involvement in the game the local Italian clubs appear to have gone on red alert and decided to stop the petty squabbling.

Even if the Italian clubs were to get their act together now, it might not be enough.

Carlton has stolen a march and will be the market leader for the foreseeable future.

Carlton will also steal a considerable amount of interest away from any existing locally-based Italian team with the lure of both historical links with that community and an eye to the future of the entertainment dollar.

Despite fostering a blossoming nationwide league the AFL clubs, along with Essendon and Collingwood, has retained its local ties for a century, maintaining an even strengthening the support base of the club during the post-war migration boom.

LYGON ST — PLACE OF CELEBRATION

Whilst the area is no longer a sanctuary for Italian migrants the Italian flavour of the area is obvious in places such as Lygon Street and surrounds.

Just as it is clear that Carltonians divide passions between the world game and

the local AFL club.

The similarities between the wild and colourful celebrations in Lygon Street for Italy's 1982 World Cup win and Carlton's 1995 AFL premiership were striking.

On both occasions the whole area was closed down. Whilst two decades before the talk of the old Lygon Street coffee houses would have centred on Juventus and Triestina, those days have long gone.

Carlton's Lygon Street connection has since helped woo one-time soccer people over to its cause over the years, even without the added lure of soccer.

A number of current major 'jooty' sponsors of the club were once upon a time major supporters of the old Juventus soccer club.

The lure of soccer at the ground formerly known as Princes Park is sure to entice significant dormant support for the code to the ground, as well as the curious 'jooty' fans.

Another lure is that Carlton's Optus Oval is currently undergoing renovations to turn the stadium into a 35,000 mostly under-cover all-seater.

Home games at Optus Oval mean top of the line corporate facilities, use of the social club, the option of any one of three undercover grandstands, possibly floodlighting, electronic scoreboard and clean toilet and catering facilities.

Bulleen currently has seating for about 350 people, none of it under cover.



Mark Hateley: Ex-Glasgow Rangers and Monaco star for Carlton?

Thomastown's Partridge Reserve is so far out of town that no-one cares about the seating and Fawkner has none, although Jukes Road does boast a significant section of under cover dirt.

NO CONTEST

Carlton, which is already planning an exhibition game against a top European club, says it will be disappointed to get anything less than 7,000 for home games, with the hope of building up to around 10,000.

Thomastown would be lucky to draw half that number

in an entire season.

It is already a no contest.

Combined or not the likes of Thomastown, and Bulleen cannot come close to matching it with Carlton in virtually any facet of the game.

The empty promises, lack of foresight, ego-tripping and sheer stupidity have cost the existing Italian clubs dearly.

When and if they finally do get their collective act together — and it's still debatable whether they can — Carlton Soccer Club will have already blown them out of the water.

LIONS LOSE THEIR ROAR

Greg Blake looks at an existing Italian-backed Club

No club better illustrates the dilemma facing Melbourne's Italian contingent than the Bulleen Lions.

Big enough and relatively successful enough to be a power in the Victorian Premier League but without the clout, support and resources to make the perilous jump into the increasingly more demanding Ericsson Cup.

The club now publicly concedes that playing in the Premier League is something of a dead end.

Even though the Lions have as good as dominated the competition in the 1990s.

The club's ultimately failed push to join the Ericsson Cup was a major blow.

For all the good intentions, hard work and a final submission that appeared every bit as good as most of the more the recent applicants the rejection has left tangible scars.

For the first time in the 1990s the club has lost focus and will miss the finals.

And for the first time in the same period spanning five consecutive top three finales the Lions have been reduced to the level of other clubs languishing outside the big league, with coaches, coming and going mid-stream and a

club showing all the signs of acceptance of mediocrity.

With the advent of Carlton the Bulleen Lions have been reduced to the level of the likes of Fawkner and Thomastown once again and the five golden years of club history are mere statistical data.

It matters little that Bulleen has won far and away more games than any other team in the Victorian Premier League

final appearances.

The overall record is a 7-5 positive win/loss record in an unprecedented 12 Premier League finals games and top three finishes from 1991 to 1995.

The Lions will argue that the senior team is now in a transitional phase after several veterans have bowed out of senior team calculations.

Yet the harsh reality is that Bulleen's grand national

competition.

Despite being the strongest of Melbourne's Italian clubs, the Lions face a merge or will on the vine situation no different to that facing Fawkner, Box Hill Inter and the Thomastown Zebras.

The latter pair of clubs are both the produce of recent amalgamations, although the desperation pairing of Thomastown and the former

BULLEEN IN THE 1990s (A record of the club's Premier League dominance)

YEAR	FINISH	FINALS PLAYED	ENDED
1991	2nd	Nil *	2nd
1992	2nd	L Q/F 2-3, W Min. S/F 1-0, L P/F 1-2	3rd
1993	1st	W Maj. S/F 2-1, W G/F 2-0	1st
1994	2nd	W Q/F pens, L Maj. S/F pens, L P/F pens	3rd
1995	4th	W E/F pens, W Min. S/F 5-1, W P/F, W P/F pens, L G/F 2-3	2nd
1996	Certain to miss finals, in 8th place with 7-7-7 record after 21 rounds		

* Championship decided by first past the post system in 1991.

Legend: E/F = Elimination Final; Q/F = Qualifying Final; Min. S/F = Minor Semi Final; Maj. S/F = Major Semi Final; P/F = Preliminary Final; G/F = Grand Final.

since the glory run commenced under Andy Bozidak in 1991.

Over five glorious years the club have dominated the title race, despite just one championship from two grand

league plans and drive to remain the dominant force in the Premier League are now secondary to the realities of budget-balancing on the limited financial base provided by the state

Juventus/Brunswick/Melbourne Zebras clubs has done little to ensure the future of either.

Just ask Zebras president Peter Ballassone.

Fawkner Feeling Blue

Relegation staring long-time Premier League team in the face

The perilous state of Melbourne's ailing Italian contingent is reflected in the fortunes of its four clubs in the Premier League.

The under-achieving Fawkner Blues are four weeks away from a final inglorious exit from the Victorian Premier League and Box Hill Inter's promise of 1995 has been replaced by a desperation battle against relegation 2 months later.

Bulleen will miss its first-ever finals series and the Thomastown Zebras will only just sneak into the play-offs.

Fawkner's story of long-term mediocrity is a sad one. By far the league's longest continuously serving member the losing 1993 grand finalist looks set for relegation after 14 seasons at this level.

Despite the long stay at the top the Blues have never won the title and this year's crash-dive appears to be the end of an era.

Fawkner has by far the toughest run home of the five clubs in immediate trouble and with just a single win from the last eight games, form and time is against the Blues.

The treacherous run to the

wire for the beaten 1993 grand finalists started last weekend with the blues hosting the finals-bound Sunshine Georgies, the start of a run of three games in four weeks against clubs in the



finals fight.

Bottom side Springvale City also faces a tough road home, and improving Albion has a near identical run home to the values.

Box Hill must hope the bottom teams continue to falter with two away at Bulleen and Fawkner to come as well as must win home games against title favourites Heidelberg and last year's champions Altona Magic.

The other team in the relegation equation is St

The league's current longest serving continuous member, Fawkner is four weeks away from possible relegation.

The Blues might go down without ever having won the Victorian title. Here is how they've fared since promotion in 1982 —

1983	8th
1984	3rd
1985	7th
1986	6th
1987	3rd
1988	14th
1989	14th
1990	5th
1991	6th
1992	5th
1993	2nd
1994	9th
1995	8th
1996	13th*

*After 21 completed rounds

Albans, although the Saints have their fate entirely in their own hands.

Dave O'Connor's team plays three of the next four games against teams beneath them on the Premier League ladder.

BY GREG BLAKE



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

AUSSIES SHINE AGAIN OVER CHINA

**CHINA 2
AUSTRALIA 1**
(Swaffer)

The new look Australian Team wrapped up its historic USA tour in much the same incredible fashion as it started with a close 2-1 loss against super power China.

The match played last Sunday week at the Adidas Soccer Complex in Bradenton saw the athletic Aussies matching it with the Olympic contenders in a game that could have gone either way.

After losing by just the single China goal three days before, Australia had the confidence to take the game to their opponent the determination paying off as they took a first half lead.

A Sharon Black corner was finished off with a fine glancing header from fellow South Australian Krysten Swaffer, the ball making it over the goal line before coming straight back out. Fortunately the referee was perfectly positioned to award the goal.

After the break, China fought their way back, equalising then taking the lead through a couple of rare Australian defensive lapses.

Australia maintained a good share of possession throughout, but found themselves unable to respond with any further goals.

Keeping China's tally down to two was Queensland's young keeper Belinda Kitching, who was in magnificent form, pulling off a couple of point blank saves.



Sharon Black: Supplied the corner from which Krysten Swaffer, scored the Australian goal.

Junior's Big Debut in Senior side

The recent USA Tour will be one young Kelly Golebiowski will never forget.

At just fourteen years, she became Australia's youngest ever international, and what a match in which to achieve that honour.

Golebiowski was brought off the bench in the opening match against former world champions USA, and went on to take the field in the USA rematch, as well as the first clash against China.

"When Tom said 'You're on' and I was warming up, I got nervous, then excited," she recalls. "But when I got on the field, I didn't feel anything else, I just did the job."

Playing in left midfield, Golebiowski, noted for her skill and confidence on the ball, took on the best and did nothing to harm that reputation.

"All of us got on well on and off the field, and we played pretty well. Against Japan and China, we were the better team, but we just couldn't score."

Asked of her highlight of the tour, Golebiowski responded without hesitation, "Getting to play against the USA."



Kelly Golebiowski: This fourteen year old from Blacktown made her debut against the USA on the recent tour.

If only we were in the Olympics

The unexpected magnificent performances of the Australian Team on its USA Tour have left everyone pondering over the thought "if only we could now take them all on in Olympic competition."

Australia failed to qualify for women's soccer's debut at the Olympics, finishing without a point in twelfth place at last year's World Cup. Perhaps things may have turned out differently had we not been drawn in what was clearly the toughest pool.

But now in a rebuilding stage for our international future, the latest Aussie combination has journeyed to the home of women's football, and turned more than a few heads with five impressive scorelines against three of the best eight nations in the world.

All on the eve of the Olympic Games where this trio will be performing on sport's biggest stage, all out to capture the first ever Olympic title.

USA have pumped piles of dollars into the campaign, training together full-time for the last six months. Yet on the two occasions they could manage only a single goal win over the inexperienced Australians.

The two 2-1 scorelines against America do not tell the full story however, USA totally dominating possession in one-sided affairs. Obsessed with statistics, the home team reckoned a tally of 24 shots on goal to the visitors' one, but a figure which also tells of the Australians' superb defence.

"I think we defended much better than in any previous games against them," concluded Scholarship Coach Leigh Wardell on her return home. "This team was a lot more organised and disciplined, and made it hard for USA to get in behind. As we knew we couldn't match them at their game, it went in to make it very hard for them."

They ended up having to shoot from a fair way out.

"For our first time playing that type of game, with not much experience or preparation, the team worked very well together as a unit," Wardell added.

The return match against USA was a similar encounter, with the Aussies soaking up a lot of pressure, but in the process also winning a little more of the ball for themselves. A goal in the last couple of minutes gave the gold medal favourites a scare, but they held on to record another narrow victory.

"It's so hard to keep possession against the Americans," said Wardell. "Whenever you win

the ball, two or three of them instantly outnumber you."

The remaining three matches against Asia's top two, were much more even affairs which could have gone either way. The overwhelming thought after first Japan, but also surprisingly the respected Chinese, was that they appeared not to be as tough as anticipated.

"We expected them to be a lot quicker and sharper," said Wardell, herself a former international. "We talked about it afterwards. Whether they've stayed at the same level, or maybe we're now a lot better. Physically we were stronger, faster and fitter than all of them — we've caught up a lot. Our touches and skill level is still not as good, but we are in our development stage. Confidence on the ball will take a little longer."

"But you just have to look at the rankings of these teams to appreciate what a great achievement was seen on this tour. These are the type of players Tom (Sermanni) has been looking for, and now we are starting to produce them."

Wardell attributes the ITC program and more regular training camps, testing and monitoring of players as the reason for the players' improvement, particularly in terms of fitness. In the extreme heat and humidity of the Florida summer, this proved a vital factor to success.

A positive and professional attitude was also much in evidence throughout the team both on and off the field. Players went out determined to perform to the best of their ability, showed discipline and organisation, and followed out Sermanni's instructions.

Wardell views the tour as a great experience for the development of the players and also from a coaching perspective. "Just to see how the other teams play — all three teams were all different. My only other exposure to these top teams was from World Cup videos."

Regular topline opposition is now the most important ingredient to Australia's future success in world football. The results achieved here must now be used as a guide for future competition, with constant improvement now the aim. Total footballing presence and experience can only be achieved over time, but these recent performances give new promise and hunger to reach those heights.

"Seeing the rate of improvement made since the World Cup, one can only wonder 'what's gonna happen next?'" concluded Wardell.

Olympic Tipsters

Having now experienced first hand some of the leading Olympic Games contenders, who is the hot tip to win the first ever gold medal?

Kelly Golebiowski: "USA most probably."

Leigh Wardell: "I'd have to say the USA. They are rated as favourites, and being at home will have a huge advantage. And they are really well prepared. The US coach did however say after our match they would have to work on their finishing!"

Angela Iannotta: "I'm hoping USA will win as it will be so good for the development of women's soccer. I think USA and Norway will be the top two, but it's so hard because they play two different styles. No... I'll go for USA."

Iannotta's heartbreak

One tragic incident to come out of the USA Tour happened even before the kickoff of the opening match. In what is an eerie set of coincidences, striker Angela Iannotta broke her right leg just above the ankle during training two days after arriving in Florida.

The last overseas tour four months ago in Auckland saw Australia's Cheryl Salisbury break her leg also near the ankle.

Salisbury was returning to the green and gold after a successful season in Japan's professional L League with club Matsushita Panasonic. Iannotta has recently signed for Matsushita and was due to fly to Japan with team mate Sunni Hughes to start pre-season training.

During training in America, Iannotta was pushed off the ball, and a player fell on top of her, pushing her leg down with her ankle stuck underneath.

The injury couldn't have come at a worse time for the 25 year old.

"I was really looking forward to the tour, because I haven't played with the National Team for a year. But then I was afraid that I might get injured, that something might happen before going to Japan after being in Italy for four years."



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



ENZO MAY RETURN

The chances of star attacking midfielder Enzo Francescoli (right) of re-joining the Uruguayan national team, who's fighting for a place in the 1998 World Cup, are increasing every day.

According to unofficial sources, Francescoli indicated that he is willing to come back to the Uruguayan squad as soon as coach Hector Nunez calls him.

It will be an important boost for a team that started well, beating Venezuela away, but losing the following two matches, with Paraguay at home, and with Colombia in Barranquilla.

The multi award winner Enzo Francescoli will add the leadership qualities that Uruguay lacked since he retired in July 1995, when they won the Copa America.

Francescoli, was named, at the time, Copa America most valuable player, an award that was repeated, at the end of last year in Argentina, where he was distinguished as Argentine Soccer League "Player of the Year."

Last January, a poll conducted by the prestigious Uruguayan daily newspaper, "El Pais", among 170 sport journalists from Latin America and Europe named Francescoli "South American Player of the Year."

Since then, he has won the Libertadores Cup, the major tournament at club level in South America with Argentine club River Plate and last week became special ambassador for UNICEF, a first for a soccer player in the world.

At almost 35 years of age, Enzo Francescoli is, undoubtedly, a footballer who has achieved great heights during his long career in South American and European football and a sportsman who will be remembered for his qualities on and off the field.



IN BRIEF

*Uruguayan international defender Edgardo Adinolfi signed with Uruguayan champion, Penarol of Montevideo, after a stint with Israeli club Maccabi Haifa.

*Uruguay drew 1-1 with a select team of Shanghai, in a friendly international, played in Shanghai. The Uruguayan goal was scored by Alvaro Recoba. The Uruguayans will tour Japan and Indonesia, next month.

*Daniel Cordoba, the coach of Argentine first division club Estudiante de La Plata could continue his career as manager of Chilean team Universidad Catolica, after the sacking of Manuel Pellegrini.

*The other candidate to coach the Chilean "aristocrats" is Croatian tactician Mirko Josic who guided Yugoslavia to win the 1987 U/20 Youth World Cup and, in 1991, took Colo Colo of Chile to win the Libertadores Cup.

*Uruguayan U/23 international striker, Federico Magallanes, who played for Penarol, was transferred to Italian club Atalanta for a reported US\$3 million. Magallanes will join another two Uruguayan players at Atalanta, defenders Jose Herrera and Paolo Montero.

*Former Argentine international midfielder, Leonardo Rodriguez, who is currently playing with Chilean champions Universidad de Chile, could be recalled by Daniel Passarella to play against Uruguay, on September 1, for the South American 1998 World Cup qualifying rounds.

*Rodriguez was a member of the Argentine national team who won the Copa America in 1991 and 1993.

*Brazilian players heading to Europe are becoming very expensive for Spanish first division clubs. Barcelona paid US\$7.7 million for attacking midfielder Giovanni, Deportivo La Coruna paid US\$9.4 million for attacking midfielder Rivaldo, and Real Madrid US\$7.5 million for defender Roberto Carlos, who played until the end of the last season for Inter Milan.

COLOMBIAN TO THE LIBERTADORES CUP

Deportivo Cali and Millonarios qualified for the 1997 edition of the Libertadores Cup after their respective victories against Atletico Nacional and America.

In Botoga, Millonarios defeated Copa America finalist America of

Cali 3-0, and Deportivo Cali beat Atletico Nacional 3-1 in Cali.

Deportivo Cali returns to the Libertadores Cup after 18 years absence while Millonarios comes back after only two years.

Millonarios, 13 times Colombian

champion never reached the final of the South American club championships, but Deportivo Cali did it in 1978, when they were defeated by Argentine club Boca Juniors.



Asia Olympic Qualifying Tournament

From AFC NEWS

The Olympics — the pinnacle of every athletes career, the stage on which every sportsman and woman wants to perform, the competition that most dream of gracing but few ever realise.

There's special magic surrounding the Olympics, the kind that brings all sorts of emotions to the fore. Success brings with it adulation and hysteria, failure means despair and depression.

All these emotions and more were on show when Asia's finest young players from eight nations got together to fight it out for the continents three places at the games in Atlanta.

The Shah Alam Stadium just outside Kuala Lumpur was the setting for what was twelve days of quality football that had, by the end, seen wide-eyed grins, mournful grimaces and tears of joy mixed with tears of sadness.

The teams came from every corner of the continent — from the north came unfancied Kazakhstan, from the Gulf Iraq, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and the flamboyant Saudi Arabia while the east sent great rivals South Korea and Japan as well as China.

With the teams split into the two groups of four to start with, Group B, featuring China, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan, always looked the most intriguing.

The outcome of the group came down to the last two games with Saudi defeating Kazakhstan 4-0 to qualify as runners-up to South Korea, who demolished China 3-0 to send them home on the next flight out of Malaysia.

Group A had less tension but was no less exciting as Japan and Iraq reached the semi-finals at the expense of the United Arab Emirates and Oman, who finished third in the group.

If the tension of the group matches was unbearable for some, the semi-finals would have been simply unwatchable.

With Japan facing Saudi Arabia in the opening game, it was obvious that fans on both sides of the fence, as well as the many neutrals in the crowd, were in for a treat as the competition's two purist footballing sides came together.

Open football was the name of the game and the excitement was never ending in a tie that saw two of the tournaments top players meet each other for the first time.

Masakiyo Maezono and Obeid Al Dossary had been instrumental in the fortunes of Japan and Saudi Arabia respectively and neither was about to let his team down now.

First blood went to Maezono, Japans inspirational captain, when he scored after five minutes and it was he who doubled his side's advantage 13 minutes after half-time following a superb one-two with Shoji Jo.

But the Saudis never gave up and Al Dossary responded with a spectacular header with 13 minutes left of the game.

However, despite an all-out barrage from the Gulf side, Japan held on to qualify for their first Olympics since their historic bronze-medal winning performance of 1968.

The moment was too much for many in the Japanese squad as players burst into tears of joy. Everyone from players, team management and journalists showed just how much qualification meant to them as

the smiles went from ear to ear and the tears rolled down the cheeks.

Despite the despair for Saudi Arabia, they still had another chance. That would come against the loser of the South Korean — Iraq semi-final, a game which, on paper, looked to be the complete opposite to the evenings opening match.

With the Koreans being the masters of the tight, defensive strategy while being superbly quick on the counter attack and Iraq possessing a similar, if more open style, no-one expected anything other than an exhibition in cautiousness.

And that's exactly what happened, with Korea's strength in attack standing them in good stead as they too won 2-1.

An own goal by Saudiq Abdulridha gave the Koreans the lead and then the hard-working Choi Yung Su increased the advantage after 31 minutes.

Esam Salem gave Iraq some hope of taking the game into extra-time, but his injury time header was not enough to take the pressure off the Iraqis.

They went on to face Saudi Arabia in the third place play-off, the game that would decide who would join Korea and Japan in Atlanta this July.

Again the tension was tangible and it was noticeably affecting the players.

The game was cagey to say the least. Once again, Al Dossary was outstanding although he missed a number of chances to take his side through in regulation time.

However, neither team could score and so the position of Asia's number three Olympic team was decided in sudden-death extra-time.

It didn't take long, though, for the Saudis to take the position as Hussein Omar Sulimani rose at the far post to

head Khalid Rashid's left wing cross seven minutes into the extra period.

As Sulimani ran around the stadium in celebration, the entire Iraqi team lay face down on the Shah Alam turf, their Atlanta dream finally shattered.

And so, it was on to the final with South Korea and Japan meeting to decide which would go to the USA as Asia's top ranked team.

The game was a classic, although no-one troubled the score keepers until the 79th minute when Lee Sang Hun headed home at the near-post.

But Japan responded immediately as Jo's bicycle kick of Hidetoshi Nakata's throw-in beat Seo Dong Myung at his near post to equalise.

The story was not to end there, though, as, from the restart Choi Yong Su broke into the penalty area only to be brought down by Hiroyuki Shirai. The referee pointed to the spot and Choi converted.

Korea held on, despite Japan ending the game with four attacking players on the field, beating their great rivals to the top slot.

It was a fantastic end to a quality tournament that showed that the future of Asian football, in the hands of players such as these, is bright indeed.

ASIA OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Japan	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Iraq	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Oman	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
UAE	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
South Korea	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Saudi Arabia	3	1	2	0	6	2	5
China	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Kazakhstan	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

Semi Finals

Japan	2	Saudi Arabia	1
Maezono (5, 58) Al Dossary (77)			
Crowd: 22,000			

South Korea	2	Iraq	1
O.G. (20), Choi Y.S. (31)			
Salem (90)			
Crowd: 25,000			

Third Place Play-off

Saudi Arabia	1	Iraq	0
Sulaiman (97)			
Crowd: 25,000.			

Final

Japan	1	South Korea	2
Shoji Jo (80)			
Lee S.H. (79),			
Crowd: 35,000.			
South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia qualified for the Olympics.			



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THE MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG

THE NORMAN WHITESIDE INTERVIEW — PART II

NW: You don't actually get a cut but you negotiate your own deal and I negotiated a good deal with Everton and I actually earned more there in two years than I did in my whole time with Manchester United!

Let me say though that I signed for Everton on the assumption that I would honour my contract but unfortunately that didn't happen. I wouldn't have signed otherwise.

MB: With your career now brought abruptly to a halt, you decided to look elsewhere. You got your degree in Podiatry (feet), so what else lies in store?

NW: (Laughing hard) Oh a Masters or a Phd. Seriously, I don't actually know! I'm just enjoying this little trip at present, when I get the chance to see my wife and family, then we'll sit down and have a chat. When I do, perhaps I'll

where I have maybe 78, 80 or 100 engagements each year. So there's lots of things to go for, things to do.

MB: Harking back slightly to the days when you were really on song, who would you have likened yourself to. Graeme Souness perhaps, with a harder tackle shall we say?

NW: No, I think a lot of the press actually portrayed me as being "hard" but I don't think I was. I was no-harder-than any other player. You're laughing but all of my bookings were for intent because I was pretty slow and I never got to the ball on time so I always caught the player.

I would rather the press had spoken more about my passing game. I always thought I was a good passer of the ball and I never got any recognition for that. They much preferred to talk about yellow cards or red cards, tackles or near tackles, elbows and headbutts and things like that rather than the pass I played down the side for Mark Hughes or Frank Stapleton to score.

MB: I can honestly say I never saw or read anything about "headbutting" but I'm not quite so sure about the rest...but lastly, best player you ever played with?

NW: I go for Bryan Robson without a doubt, for his many qualities, on and off the pitch. On the pitch a great leader, in the dressing room not frightened to say anything if the manager would say "You do this and you do that", Robbo would stand up and say "That's wrong, we should do it this way."

The Boss would change it because Robbo is so authoritative. If the Boss said "Will you pick him up" or whatever, Robbo turned round and answered "No, no, no, let's do it/try it this way."

It's much better if he comes in later and he goes there etc". All managers respected him for it. Robbo's one of the boys, he likes a few pints but he's respected throughout the game.

He also had all the qualities: going forward, timing — his runs into the box were unbelievable, finishing — he got his fair share of goals, defending, good tackler and he never got the recognition for his passing ability either.

He and I used to have a competition going every game we played together for Manchester United, quite a lot of games and we had quite a good record, and we had this little competition to see who could give the ball away the LEAST.

I used to try and work out, don't give the ball away more

than three times in the first-half and three times in the second and he used to do the same.

It worked out about equal in the end. Sometimes you "had a mare" and gave it away about 100 times but we set our stall out not to give the ball away and that's why with these little practices (coaching clinics), you do these five, ten yard passes, so as you give it to one of your own team mates and then when it opens up, away you go.

MB: And the toughest player you played against, Diego Maradona?

NW: The toughest, as in

was relieved of his duties for the last 10 minutes and I never got a kick until then and he is the hardest man I have ever played against.

MB: What about that game against Barcelona at the Nou Camp with Maradona. Went down 2-0 over there but roasted them 3 zip at Old Trafford and progressed through to the semi-final of the Cup Winners up before going out to Juventus?

NW: He was very skilful, very fast, low centre of gravity. He was one of the best strikers in the world of course. Those players didn't threaten me, in fact you thrive

MB: Right then, ready for a quick pint?

NW: Are you getting them in?

MB: Dear me, is that the time? Must be er... erm...

As it happens, Norman had to leave for WA unfortunately but his off-field persona disguises just what a great competitor he was on the park. Hard but fair is an overused phrase about players but it suits him to a tee. A real diamond and prepared to give yet another interview after a long days coaching, TV interviews etc. Great guy.

He also had a fair bit of common-sense to impart to all the youngsters who were there for the SCI clinics: Don't let your education suffer for the game. If you don't make it, you need a good education to fall back on and believe me, I do know! A great player in his day, and only 31 now of course, plus a wise head on his shoulders.

Those who scoffed at the very idea of the SCI Coaching Clinics have now been made to look rather foolish indeed. They assumed that, as has happened in the past, the "star players" would not be putting in too much of an appearance but they were wrong! Frank Farina, Francis Awaratife, Matt Bingley and Norman were there ALL day, everyday and trained the kids themselves. They didn't slack off or rush off at the end of the sessions but sat down with those taking part and told footballing stories and the like.

As I've probably said before, I'm normally sceptical about these events for the above reasons and stories I've heard in the past but knowing the gentleman running and organising these, I have absolutely no qualms as to what is said being done. If they say a certain player is coming here, that player WILL be here unless in exceptional circumstances (whereby a player past or present of equal standing will be drafted in).

Equally, if a member cannot make a certain clinic because his/her parents are taking them on holiday, they will be fitted into one at a later date. Argue with that!

January should see some great names here but more about that in the future. Anyone wishing to know more, please write to: SCI, PO Box 374, North Beach, WA 6020 for details. You will not be disappointed and don't forget about the one (or more?) lucky member who will get an all expenses paid trip to train with a top European club each year. Who else offers that?



Matt Bingley: Spent all day training the kids.

gave me the run-around a bit, was a guy called Karl-Heinz Forster of West Germany. We played them in the European Championships in 1984 I think it was 80,000 screaming Germans in the Hamburg Stadium and he marked me.

For eighty minutes I never got a kick, he was in first, he was there, he took the ball away from me, I never got a look in. It was 0-0 after eighty minutes and the German coach was crying his eyes out as they were "only playing Northern Ireland" and he told Forster to push on into midfield.

What happened? Whiteside scored, Northern Ireland beat West Germany 1-0 because he

on it, playing against a player of a higher stature than yourself and that's why I used to love playing in Europe or in international football because you're up against the best and playing against the likes of Vogts, Platini, Giresse, Tigana. Fantastic, superb. We played against Brazil in Mexico and the guys out there, Socrates and all those boys.

My head was spinning, dizzy just from playing with them, didn't know what I was doing.

MB: Norman Whiteside, thanks for your time, a pleasure.

NW: That's OK, no problem.

Continued...

MB: Alex Ferguson took over from Ron Atkinson in 1986 and for the start of the 1989/90 season he signed Neil Webb (1.5m) from Notts Forest and Mike Phelan (750,000) from Norwich City, presumably to replace you.

He had already outlayed the massive sum (at that time) of 4.6 million pounds on players like Viv Anderson, Brian McClair, Steve Bruce, Jim Leighton, Mark Hughes and Mal Donaghy but obviously thought that United



Norman Whiteside: His appearance at the clinics have made the scoffer's look foolish.

still needed re-building?

NW: Fergie and I actually sat down and came to an amicable agreement. I'd been out a year with my achilles tendon and I obviously hadn't played too many games and he thought I was getting a bit stale.

I've had an on-going knee problem since I was 16 and as you know, I'm into medical stuff and I also knew the extent of the problem with my knee and how long it would last and we thought that if I moved club I could make a financial killing and be able to look after myself better and

before that. Going back and knowing the situation with my medical history, Fergie thought it was a reasonable price. If I'd been in 100% physical condition, other clubs would have been looking at a few million to buy me.

It's good on the players side because the less the fee, the more he can negotiate his personal terms.

Obviously it's better still to go on a "free" transfer because you then go and get the money but I did well out of it in that respect.

MB: There's no taxmen here, what was your cut?

go into coaching back home although I haven't ruled out management (laughs again but adds a twinkle in the eye).

No, I quite like helping the younger players, sort of man management, the one on one type thing and hopefully I'd be able to get the best out of them.

So I'll be looking at that, Coaching, Podiatry around the clubs or Physiotherapy, I've done my Diploma in Physiotherapy as well. There are a few options open, I still work at Old Trafford where I look after the Commercial side of things on matchdays. I do after dinner speaking

.....Scottish Grounds and Clubs.....

BY STUART JONES

AYR UNITED

Ground:	Somerset Park
Address:	Tyrfield Place, Ayr, KA8 9NB, Scotland
Railway Station:	Ayr, Newton on Ayr (10 minute walks)
Founded:	1910
Admitted to League:	1910
Ground Capacity:	13,918
Seats:	1,450
Pitch Size:	110 yards by 72 yards
Largest Gate:	25,225 vs Rangers Div 1 13 Sept 1969
Biggest Win:	11-1 vs Dumbarton Lge Cup 13 Aug 1952
Biggest Loss:	0-9 vs Rangers (1929), Hearts (1931), Third Lanark (1954). All Division One
Nickname:	The Honest Men
Colours:	White (majority) and Black
Honours:	Division 2: 1911-12, 1912-13, 1927-28, 1936-37, 1958-59, 1965-66.

History: Ayr started at Beresford Park. In 1888 the club were going to hold a game against Aston Villa however the annual cattle show took precedence so the club moved to Somerset Park.

From 1903 to 1910 the town had two league clubs Ayr and Ayr Parkhouse until in 1910 the two clubs amalgamated as Ayr United.

Beresford Park was again used in WWI due to its close proximity to the railway station.

In 1920 the club purchased Somerset Park for 2,500 pounds and in 1924 revamped the ground completely.

In 1929 the supporters club put money together to put a roof on the railway end and in Simon Inglis's The Football Grounds of Great Britain it states there was a section for men and women in this stand, completely separate from each other.

Not until 1939 was a game postponed due to inclement weather — a

remarkable achievement for any ground in Scotland!

In 1970 the club put in floodlights for the first time, playing under them in a friendly against Newcastle United on November 18.

The ground is surrounded by factories and railway sidings, yet is of course quite close to the sea. Last season Ayr finished sixth in Division Two.

Another "Honest" seasons performance from the "Honest men".

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

By Stuart Jones

Middlesbrough have been in the news again this week. After Ravenelli's move, Michel Beck has finally been signed up. There is still talk of another major signing — that of Gabriel Batistuta (below). On the way out is youngster Jamie Pollock.

Rumours have Nick Barmby on his way to Newcastle after Ginola leaves for Barcelona but there is a distinct possibility that neither deal will go through. I am perplexed as to where Boro have found this new found wealth. They have spent over 20 million pounds in Robson's period in charge, and they are supposed to be the poorer relations of their Geordie neighbours (Hartlepool excepted of course — they can't even afford to finish building their ground!)

With all this activity in the transfer market — the question must be asked where are the two major North London clubs — in terms of signings? It looks like Leyton Orient could sign more than Spurs and the Gunners combined. Of course out Highbury way a lot has been promised — but they can't even make their manager sign the dotted line.

Rangers have asked Liverpool for help in gaining information on Vladikavkaz — the team they take on in the preliminary round of the Champions League. Liverpool beat the side 2-1 last season on aggregate in the UEFA cup and Rangers are looking for such a result. Of course this season the Club attempts a record equalling ninth league title in a row!

The annual row over team strips has erupted again with Liverpool's new kit sponsor Reebok putting out a new home and away kit within a season of their last one. There are calls to legislate for kits to have a length of at least two seasons, with Home and Away its changing in alternate years.

Talking of new Kits Leicester have sent me information on their new kit for the PL next season — and it looks great. If you want more details on purchasing one they are around 40 pounds for an adult shirt and the postage is over half that — 22 pounds, so it is quite expensive. If you do want to order one just drop a line to the UKSSD address and I will send you out a copy of the order form.



Interesting statistics from my good friend Steve Darby last week on goals scored in Euro 96. It showed that it would be very unusual for a first half goal to come from a left footed player having a shot outside the penalty area from free play after only two touches. Now if Steve had taken this information on board in his goalkeeping days at Tranmere he could have been in goal for England instead of David Seaman (above)! And all you strikers can now take on board the type of shot that the goalkeepers least expect and score a bagful in the next game you play. Actually Steve is quite right, at all levels of play it really is surprising just how many goals came from crosses and yet keepers continue to train by getting people to shoot at them front on. If they are any good then direct shots should be a keeper's bread and butter and practising positional play for crosses is much more important. Well done Mr Darby (and go the Rovers)!!

In 1948 Lincoln's Jock Dodds scored three goals in one game — against three keepers! In 1986 Alvin Martin repeated the feat for West Ham.

Les Massie of Huddersfield scored two hat-tricks against Middlesbrough in the one season. Yet apart from those games he only scored another three goals that campaign. I wonder who he looked forward to seeing in the draw the next season?

Bristol City player Wally Hinshelwood scored twice against Rotherham in 1958-59. He also scored in the return fixture. They were the only goals he scored in the 40 game he played that season.

Blackburn claim their bid for Eric Cantona was not revenge for the Shearer transfer saga. I think we'll leave that up to ourselves to decide.



England's Glory: The other kind of 'matches' which were marketed in Euro 96.



Alan Shearer: Are Blackburn Rovers hitting-back at Manchester Utd for their attempts to poach England's top striker-by counter-bidding for Cantona? Watch this space for further developments.

UK STORIES

Rovers audacious bid for Cantona

Blackburn last Wednesday launched a surprise \$A7.9 million bid for Manchester United's French star Eric Cantona, as Rovers denied the move was in response to United's for Ewood Park marksman, Alan Shearer.

United assistant secretary



Ken Ramsden confirmed the club had received a faxed offer from the 1995 Premiership champions, but was quick to insist that "the offer has been rejected out of hand."



Cantona: "Not going anywhere."

"Eric will not be going to Blackburn or anywhere else," he insisted.

Asked whether he saw a link with Shearer's position, with United believed to have bid \$A23.8 million for England's top striker, Ramsden said it was not his business to question other clubs' motives.

Cantona, 30, was outstanding last season as he led United to the Double.

The Frenchman hit 14 goals in the league as United beat Newcastle United to the title and also scored five times in the Reds' run to the FA Cup final, where he scored the late winner at Wembley against Liverpool.

But disappointment followed when French national coach Aime Jacquet left the mercurial midfielder out of his squad for Euro 96 in England.

Instant suspension in England

Players involved in acts of on-field violence or caught for drug misuse face instant suspension next season, following a change in Football Association rules last week.

In the past the FA had to rely on clubs to take action against serious offenders, while it put its disciplinary process into slow-grinding action.

Now it has been given new sanctions to act immediately to suspend a player or official, pending a disciplinary



hearing.

"It's a power we can only use in extreme cases," said

spokesman Steve Double. "In the case of a player, it would be done in conjunction with the Professional Footballers' Association and his club."

But they stress it will only be enforced in the most dramatic of cases: "It's not something we would envisage using without thorough consideration of the implications."

And any 'time served' by a suspended player would be taken into account when his case came before a disciplinary tribunal.

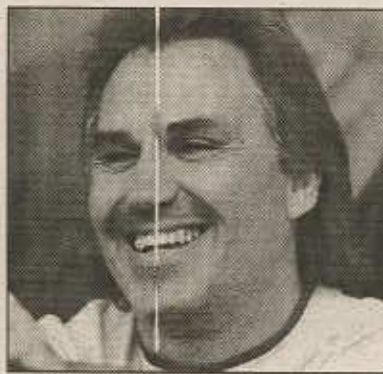
TWO YEAR CONTRACT

Tottenham manager Gerry Francis has signed a two-year contract to stay with the English premier league club.

Francis, 44, will be paid \$A.695,000 a year plus bonuses.

Francis, who preferred working without a long-term contract at previous clubs Bristol Rovers and Queens Park Rangers, initially refused to put pen to paper when he joined Tottenham in November 1994 as Ossie Ardiles' replacement. "Signing Gerry is better than signing any superstar player," said Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar.

"His team-building skills are first class. He is not prepared to rush out and buy the first player who becomes available. Gerry bides his time and buys quality."



Gerry Francis

RAMS SIGN TERRORS

MIDFIELDER

Derby County, who are due to kick off at their new ground in August, last week signed Christian Dailly from Dundee United.

The 22 year old midfielder, who has, yet to be capped by Scotland, at full international level, has moved South for an initial \$A980,000.

This fee will rise depending on the number of appearances Dailly makes for the Rams and if he gains Scottish caps.

UNITED SIGN CZECH

MIDFIELDER

Manchester United has won the battle to sign Czech Republic midfielder Karel Poborsky.

The English premier league champion agreed a \$A9.82 million deal with Czech champions Slavia Prague on Saturday.

Poborsky will have a medical check next week, then sign a four year deal thought to be worth \$A3.9 million.

Poborsky has been the subject of a tug-of-war between United and premier league rivals Liverpool.

Slavia also tried to persuade him to stay for their European Champions' league campaign.

Poborsky was one of the stars of last month's European Championship in England.

He scored a spectacular goal against Portugal in the quarter-finals and helped the Czech Republic to reach the final, where they lost in extra time to Germany.

TREVOR FRANCIS KEEPS BUYING



Birmingham City manager, Trevor Francis increased his spending on the close season transfer market by almost \$A3 million dollars.

His latest signing is striker Paul Furlong from Chelsea.

Furlong became available after the signing of Juventus star Gianluca Vialli by Ruud Guilit for Stamford Bridge.

Birmingham have signed Furlong to a four year contract.

Magnificent Manchester Merchandising

The photograph of the Manchester United Megastore front gives no indication of how much merchandising means to this great club.

Over \$A100 million is generated from the sale of Manchester United shirts, caps, shorts, socks, sweaters, jackets, scarves, home strip, away strip, bags

etc.

The Sales Plan for merchandising at Old Trafford says something like -- Sell a Manchester United shirt to everyone in the

world.

Ambitious you might think, even arrogant, but you have to admire them for having such a wide vision.

With so much revenue

generated from gear it can be seen that Manchester United is an extremely large business, action on the field is almost subservient to the whole.



STRIKE AVERTED

The heated discussions anticipated between the English Football League and the Professional Footballers' Association never eventuated when representatives of both sides met last week.

The PFA had threatened strike action over the league's refusal to pay it 10 percent of a new multi-million pound television deal, but the issue was conspicuous by its absence at a meeting of the Footballers' Further Education and Vocational Training Society.

A future date for discussions between the two parties has not been set.

The league has struck a \$A50m deal with Sky TV, but insists it will not increase its seasonal payment of \$A1,111,300, which is used to help finance the PFA's operation of benevolent grants, educational assistance and insurance.

PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor has said he will ask the 1,500 players from the 72 league clubs to vote for strike action in the first week of August if the dispute cannot be settled.

The Premiership is not affected at the moment and its 1996-97 season would go ahead in isolation, even if Football League players went on strike.

ASIAN CLUB CHAMPIONS 1995/96



Iihwa Chunma of Korea